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# Alpharetta Public Safety Foundation News

The Alpharetta Department of Public Safety and the Alpharetta Public Safety Foundation

*A Partnership in Excellence*



**Gary George, Director**

The keyword for this past year has been "change." We have many exciting changes taking place within the Alpharetta Department of Public Safety that will enhance our services to our citizens and continue to make us the benchmark for others to follow.

The Alpharetta Department of Public Safety is comprised of Police, Fire, Communications and Support staff. Our Department serves a city of approximately 53,000 citizens and over 150,000 people during business day hours.

We have been very busy in the first half of 2008. Historically when the economy enters a slump, the law enforcement occupation sees an increase in certain crime categories such as property crimes. All of our public safety staff has focused their efforts on maintaining the very low crime level Alpharetta enjoys.

The City of Alpharetta reports yearly certain mandated crime statistic to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. For comparison purposes, the City of Alpharetta compares itself to two other cities. Those cities are Roswell and Marietta. Based upon the crime statistics for nine separate categories, Alpharetta had the lowest crime stats in all nine categories. The categories are Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated assault, Burglary,

Larceny, Vehicle theft, Arson and Violent crime.

Our Department of Public Safety enhances the quality of life in Alpharetta by implementing programs that support communication between our citizens and public safety. We have the P.A.C.T. program which stands for Police And Citizens Together. This program has a police officer assigned to each of the city's subdivisions and apartment/townhouse units. Each officer is required to attend three homeowner initiated meetings each year. The officer can maintain e-mail contact with the residents. This program allows residents to be eyes and ears in their communities and share any information they feel the police department should be aware of. The police department can send out lookouts, warnings, tips and other useful information to the residents. This program fosters a bond of trust between public safety and the citizens we serve.

The Alpharetta Dept. of Public Safety has a full time business watch officer. This officer is responsible for maintaining a database of business owners (voluntarily) who want to maintain contact with our department. This officer can do safety site surveys on the business as well as put on educational classes at different business when requested. Such topics include organized retail theft, shoplifting, inventory theft, identity theft and employee safety. We have an officer who offers free classes to females on the topic of rape prevention.

The crime prevention section of the Alpharetta Dept. of Public Safety operates a PAL (police athletic league) program. We have a gym here in Alpharetta that has a mentor program atmosphere mixed with sports and other hobbies. The focus is on at risk youth. We assign a full time police officer to serve as the PAL officer. The intent of the program is to provide a positive atmosphere and the skills necessary so that disadvantaged youth could become productive students and members of the community. The program offers a variety of sporting opportunities, field trips and guest speakers. This program is successful because of the dedicated city employees and volunteers who give of their time to our youth. The department also conducts a citizen's police academy. This academy allows citizens to get hands on feel to what it's like to be a police officer. Citizens attend a class one day a week for a specified period of time. Citizens are given instruction on a variety of classes such as traffic stops, building searches, Investigative methods, traffic crashes and DUI enforcement. Citizens in this program are allowed to 'ride along" with a police officer in the field for a total of eight hours. Additionally, a citizen of Alpharetta may complete a criminal background check form and then be invited to ride along with an officer anytime at their choosing. This is one of our most popular programs!

In the field, the Alpharetta Dept. of Public Safety has specialized units in place to combat specific problems encountered in law enforcement. The department has a crime suppression unit. This unit uses a variety of law enforcement methods to combat crime in high risk areas based upon generated statistics or severity of circumstances. Additionally we have a fully trained S.W.A.T. team with the appropriate equipment to handle high risk situations that endanger human life. We have a dedicated group of officers that make up the Alpharetta Dept. of Public Safety DUI enforcement team. These officers are responsible for enforcing Georgia's DUI laws. It is a mission of the Alpharetta Dept. of Public Safety to remove intoxicated

drivers from the roadways thus ensuring the safety of our citizens. I am proud of the fine police officers and support staff that work hard every day to provide the quality of life we enjoy in our great city!

I want to take this opportunity to offer a public thank you to our outstanding employees in our communication 911 center. These dedicated employees receive hundreds of emergency calls each year and then dispatch the appropriate public safety responders to the scene. The quiet professionals operate every minute, every day of the year behind the scenes to ensure our citizens receive help in time of need.

I am pleased to announce the Alpharetta Dept. of Public Safety will open a new state of the art 911 Communication Center on October 1, 2008. This new center will expand our capabilities and allow our communications staff to “see” each police, fire and ambulance vehicles in real time. This benefit will allow our dispatchers to dispatch the nearest public safety asset to the scene of an emergency instead of an assigned zone unit. This will allow for a quicker response time for emergencies.

I would also like to say thank you to the outstanding employees of our fire services division. These employees operate six state of the art fire stations and answer thousands of calls for service each year. The Fire Services staff consists of some of the highest trained fire fighters, EMT’s and paramedics in the Metro Atlanta region. Following our organizational commitment to our community our Fire Services staff along with our police officers serves as PACT liaisons with an assigned neighborhood in Alpharetta. The Fire Services staff works very hard to ensure the City of Alpharetta citizens receive the best protection and service available.

The ADPS always focuses on finding ways to better serve our citizens!

With valued partners such as the Alpharetta Public Safety Foundation, the remainder of 2008 promises to be even more exciting as we strive to provide the best services to our citizens!

Sincerely,  
Gary George

## **Foundation Update**



John Albers, Chairman

We are half way through 2008 and your foundation is hard at work. I would like to publically thank our Board of Directors, Advisory Board and Business Advisory Council for all their exceptional effort.

Corporate fund raising is an ongoing initiative. Listed below are the logos of our generous sponsors. They have responded to the call of "supporting those who protect us".

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Benihana event is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Firefighter Jeremy Reifsnnyder to participate. I would like to extend a special thanks to the Benihana committee for planning our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual event.

The foundation approved funds to purchase a Child ID system. This tool will allow our public safety officials to provide a CD full of information for parents including pictures, fingerprints, DNA, etc. In case of abduction or emergency this information becomes invaluable. Thank you to Officer Terry Joyner for initiating this public service.

I am continuously amazed and impressed by the fire, police and dispatch family in Alpharetta. With the combined forces of employees and volunteers we will continue to set the benchmark for others to follow.

I have recently been exposed to the volunteer ranks of public safety as a recruit in the fire department. Lt. Gary Robinson has set the standard for leadership and continuity across the ranks of our volunteer and career professionals. Thank you Gary and all our volunteers.

Debi Wingate and I have visited all the fire and police shifts this week. Special thanks to Debi for making over 700 brownies! It was a great opportunity to update everyone and receive the terrific questions and feedback. Remember, this is your foundation!

We have had the privilege of assisting some of you in your time of need this year. This will always be our #1 priority and we are honored to serve you.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Albers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## Benihana Event

By Janet Rogers, Public Safety Foundation Board of Directors

The Alpharetta Public Safety Foundation will host its Second Annual Benihana “Red and Blue Cook for You” Gala on Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at Benihana of North Point at 7PM. The fundraiser dinner – accompanied by a silent auction – takes place during National Fire Week each year and teams Alpharetta police officers and firefighters up with Benihana's master chefs to provide guests with great entertainment and wonderful food hibachi style. Tables have seats for 8 guests and are available for purchase for \$1,200.00. For more information about table sales, please contact Janet Rodgers at 678-297-2811 or [janet@awesomealpharetta.com](mailto:janet@awesomealpharetta.com).

## Foundation Equips Police Crime Suppression Units with the Right Tool

The Alpharetta Public Safety Foundation continues to look at ways to support the members of the Public Safety Department with the best tools to provide the quality service to the citizens of Alpharetta. Recently, the Foundation purchased a mass child identification kit called SafeAssuredID.



The SafeAssured privacy-protected mini-CD offers a **single repository of important information:**

- All ten electronically imaged fingerprints
- Digital photograph
- Streaming video showing mannerisms and gait with linked audio file providing the child's voice inflection and accent.
- Private information (general physical description, street address, date of

birth, life-threatening medical conditions, identifying scars or marks, and tattoos)

- Ability to create missing person poster from the mini-CD

Families also receive a full-color photo data card and a Parents' Guidebook with prevention tips, written in conjunction with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

For more information regarding Alpharetta's SafeAssured-ID kits contact officer Terry Joyner at (678)207-6309 (ext. 2) or [tjoyner@alpharetta.ga.us](mailto:tjoyner@alpharetta.ga.us).

## Our 2008 Corporate Sponsors

*Thank you!*



## Windward Business Association

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

