



HILLSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Working in partnership with the community to provide public safety services which enhance the safety, security, and quality of life of the community.

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

November/December 2014



Inside this Issue

2 Can Pedestrians be Cited in Auto vs Ped Crashes?

3 IRS Scam
Scam Alert Network

4 White Cane Law

5 Leaves Fall in Your Yard, Responsibility Falls on You
Holiday Package Thieves

6 Hillsboro Police Goes PINK and PURPLE

7 COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Drug Turn In
Child Safety Seat Check
Safe-n-Sane
Shred Event

8 LOOKING AHEAD
Landlord Forums
Citizens' Academy

9 NUMBERS TO KNOW

Riley Retires!

by Brandi Gilbert, Crime Prevention Specialist

It was all dog bones and belly rubs as the Hillsboro Police Department celebrated the retirement of drug detection K9 Riley. Okay...it might not seem like that spectacular of a celebration but after nearly six years of service with HPD, Police Officer Mark Vertner hung up the 11 year old, mix breed Terrier's police leash for good.



Originally adopted from the Humane Society in La Grande, Oregon, this pound puppy turned police narcotics detection canine found a job with a police department in Washington before making his move to Hillsboro. While with HPD, K9 Riley was partnered with Sergeant Mike Leader for over two years and then with Officer Vertner until retirement on September 3.

Trained to detect the odor of Heroin, Cocaine, Marijuana, Methamphetamine, Crack Cocaine and Black Tar Heroin, Riley quickly became a valuable partner for police officers on patrol. During his tenure with HPD, K9 Riley successfully located drugs or items contaminated with the odor of drugs, hundreds, if not thousands of times and his keen sense of smell was always rewarded with a chance to play with his beloved ball!

So what's next for this rescued and now retired police canine? For starters, Riley gets to live out his days in the comfort of his former police partner's home along with his Chihuahua pal, Yuki. Long naps, long walks, and playing with his ball are in the plans, too. And if we know Riley and his sense of smell, you can bet he will have his share of treats as well!



Auto vs Pedestrian Crashes

Can a pedestrian be cited?

by Sergeant Diana Foesch, Traffic Division

Generally speaking, people think crashes between vehicles and pedestrians are the fault of the driver. However, this is not always the case.

More and more pedestrians are not following the laws designed to help protect them. Often times, they fail to look before crossing the street, even when they are in a crosswalk. Why? They are distracted by electronic devices.

Example: Recently in Beaverton, a person crossing in a crosswalk with the right away did not see or hear the fire engine, with their emergency lights and siren activated, approaching the same intersection. Video shows a Beaverton Police employee bolt across the crosswalk to stop the pedestrian from a potential crash. The pedestrian had earphones in and was not paying attention to their surroundings. Luckily no one was hurt.

A pedestrian “Failing to Stop for an Emergency Vehicle” using lights and/or siren can also be cited (in addition to a driver).

In Hillsboro, we recently had a person get struck by a car when they crossed the road while talking on their cell phone. They were not paying attention to traffic. Fortunately, they incurred only minor injuries.

Whether we are a driving, riding a bicycle, or walking on roadways, we all need to take responsibility for our actions. We all need to be aware of our surroundings by paying attention to what’s going on around us.

So, what exactly are a pedestrian’s responsibilities?

When you are crossing a street that has a crosswalk signal (*walk/don’t walk*), you cannot walk against it when it shows you are not to cross. If you do, you can be cited for ***“Pedestrian Failure to Obey a Traffic Control Device.”*** Obey the crosswalk signal even though you will have to wait.

If there is no crosswalk signal letting you know when you

can cross at an intersection, you are to obey the traffic light. You cannot cross the road when there is a yellow or red traffic light.

Another instance where a pedestrian can be cited, ***“Pedestrian failing to Yield to a Vehicle”***. This law says, a pedestrian cannot leave a curb or other place of safety and move into the path of a vehicle that is so close it would create a hazard. This means, don’t cross directly in front of a moving vehicle - regardless if it’s in a marked or unmarked crosswalk, or when crossing on a road that is not an intersection. Always (even when in a crosswalk) look both ways before crossing.

All of the aforementioned pedestrian violations carry a \$110.00 fine.

Overall, there’s been a large increase in recent years in the number of pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers who are distracted. And this isn’t just cell phone use. We see people who are more in tune with their radio or music device, applying makeup, shaving, reading a book

Continued on Page 3



IRS Scam

Hang up on angry, so-called tax collectors from the Internal Revenue Service

by Julie Carrasco, Crime Prevention Specialist

Hillsboro Police has seen another influx of calls regarding an Internal Revenue Service scam in which someone claiming to be from the IRS (or the Oregon Department of Revenue) calls an individual demanding payment for back taxes in the form of a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer. If the person refuses, then the scammer threatens the person, saying they will be arrested or have their driver's license suspended if they don't pay. Then to add pressure and realism, there will be a follow up call from someone, claiming to be from the local police agency.

The scammers are very clever, appearing legitimate. Most often they will know the last four digits of your social security number, and will have spoofed the IRS toll-free number on your *caller ID*. Some people also report receiving an e-mail, supposedly from the IRS, corroborating the scam.

To be clear, this is not how the IRS operates. If you owe taxes, you're most likely to be contacted by mail; and you would never be asked to pay with a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer.

If you receive a call, as has been described, immediately hang up. Then, according to the Oregon Attorney General's Office, here's what you should do:

- If you think you owe taxes, contact the IRS (1-800-829-1040) and/or the Oregon Department of Revenue (1-800-356-4222).
- If you know you do not owe taxes, report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (1-800-366-4484).
- If you've lost money as a result of this scam, file a complaint with the Oregon Department of Justice online at www.oregonconsumer.gov or by phone (877-877-9392).

Auto vs Pedestrian

continued

while driving, eating, dealing with the children in the car, or simply thinking about the next task they have to do.

No one wants to be in a traffic crash; no one wants to hit or be hit by anyone else, but it happens. It's often because people are not patient, they have to be ahead of someone else or they think it is someone else's responsibility to be paying attention.

Your life can change in a split second because you were not focused when you needed to be. Please don't become a statistic. Pay attention, don't rush, and arrive safely to your destination.

Join the
SCAM ALERT NETWORK
Oregon Attorney General's Office

DOJ.State.Or.Us



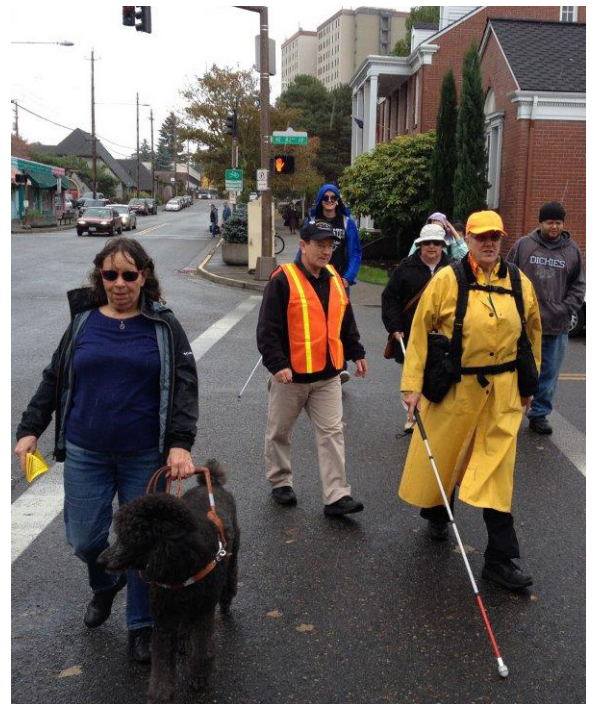
White Cane Law

A Day Dedicated to Raising Awareness

*by Sheila Spencer, Oregon Commission for the Blind
and Julie Carrasco, Crime Prevention Specialist - Hillsboro*

National White Cane Safety Awareness Day was October 15; an annual event to raise awareness about pedestrian safety, especially as it affects people using long white canes or guide dogs for their independent mobility.

A Portland area committee, representing people who are blind or visually impaired, and agencies that provide services to people with visual impairment sponsored a local event for clients, concerned citizens and police agencies. It featured educational opportunities, including guided walks.



Oregon law (ORS 811.035) requires that drivers “STOP for pedestrians who are blind and/or deaf, carrying a white cane or accompanied by a dog guide, and who are crossing or about to cross, until the pedestrian has crossed the ENTIRE roadway.”

Some communities, including Hillsboro, have Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) to aid visually impaired or blind individuals with safely crossing the street. An APS exhibits an audible signal at intersections with traffic lights which indicate when the *walk* signal is on. Some APSs are tones (beeps or cuckoos). These are the least expensive to install, but not always the most helpful. There are some APSs which use speech to tell the pedestrian when the light is green. However, these are more expensive and less common.

The City of Hillsboro owns and maintains APS signals on Main Street at 32nd, as well as on Cypress Street at 21st. There are other county-owned APS signals within the Hillsboro city limits on:

- Cornell Road at 192nd, 194th, and at Orenco Station Parkway;
- Evergreen Parkway at 194th and at Stucki;
- 185th Avenue in the 700 block and at Evergreen.

As a matter of regular practice, the City will not upgrade signalled intersections to APS signals, unless there’s a specific request. It’s then evaluated on a case by case basis.

Drivers are asked to notice ALL pedestrians and stop for them as required by law.

Tree Leaves Fall on Your Property

The Responsibility Falls On You

by Officer Joey Blanc, Code Enforcement

While the Fall season brings joy to some, it can cause frustration for others, especially neighbors. Here are a few things to keep in mind regarding trees:

Leaves and other debris that fall off the adjacent property are considered a natural occurrence and are the responsibility of the property owner they fall on to remove. Please do not pick up the leaves and branches, and throw them back onto your neighbor's property.

When using a leaf blower, be sure to take care in not blowing large amounts of leaves and debris onto your neighbor's property.

If your neighbor's tree limbs are encroaching onto your side of the property, you may trim only up to the boundary line; being careful not to destroy the structural integrity of the tree. You are responsible for the proper disposal of the debris left behind.

Above all, do not enter your neighbor's property without first getting permission, regarding any concern you may have about their tree.

Many people worry about trees from adjacent properties falling onto theirs. The City of Hillsboro does not have any codes regarding this issue. If your property is damaged by a tree from an adjacent property, it is a civil issue between you and your neighbor. Consult with your homeowners insurance for legal advice.

Always remember to work with your neighbor regarding concerns you may have. Chances are, you can work to come up with a solution together.

Holiday Package Thieves

by Julie Carrasco, Crime Prevention Specialist

Holiday Grinches are eagerly awaiting the arrival of packages to your front door step. If you're expecting gifts or other items from a delivery service, pay attention to their scheduled delivery date. If you can't be there to receive them, have them delivered to a trusted neighbor who will be home or to your workplace. You may also have them held for direct pick-up at the delivery center.

Every year, Hillsboro Police sees package thefts increase in the weeks leading up to Christmas and other holiday celebrations. This year, please consider stealing a thief's *opportunity* to steal from you.



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Hillsboro Police Goes *Pink* in October and *Purple*

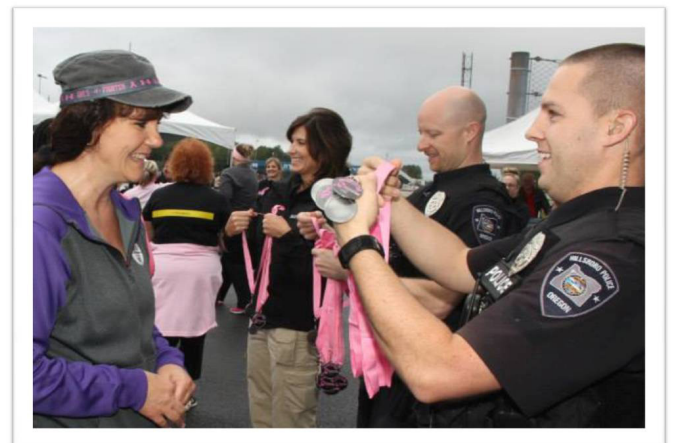
by Lee Dobrowolski, Chief of Police

The month of October is near and dear to the hearts of the members of the Hillsboro Police Department. As you may or may not know, October is Breast Cancer Awareness and Domestic Violence Awareness month. We see both issues as critically important to us as individuals and to our community.

Cancer touches all of us in one way or another. Our employees have all known a friend or family member who's been affected by cancer. We wanted to show our support in bringing awareness to our community. So, in partnership with Genentech, we placed large pink ribbons on the hoods of several patrol cars.



We hoped the ribbons would start conversations with members of our community and help us get to a cure.



Domestic violence is a crime that touches every facet of every city in the nation, and Hillsboro is no different. During the month of October, we wanted to help "Break the Silence" about domestic violence. So, purple ribbons were affixed to the sides of all Hillsboro patrol vehicles in an effort to shed light on the issue of domestic violence and to support the survivors.



Community Outreach

Fall Prescription Drug Turn-In!

We collected 531 pounds of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications!



Child Safety Seat Checks

Checked and Installed 15 Child Safety Seats

Safe-n-Sane

Kids and parents braved the rain to Trick or Treat with the downtown Hillsboro businesses on Halloween.



SHRED EVENT

26,000 pounds shredded!

In addition to bringing their documents, participants donated more than \$4,100 to benefit the 2015 Drug/Alcohol-Free Grad Night Parties in Hillsboro.

NEXT SHRED EVENT - MAY 2, 2015



Looking Ahead



Beaverton | Forest Grove | Hillsboro
Tigard | Tualatin | Washington County

Better manage your rental property • Network with landlords • Partner with law enforcement

November 12

Understanding Habitability Obligations and Tenant's Duties

December 10

Pit Bulls: Understanding How to Handle Requests for Reasonable Accommodations

**Portland Community College
Willowcreek Campus**

241 SW Edgeway Drive, Beaverton

6:30 - 8 pm

no pre-registration required

Landlord Forums

Brought to you by Warren Allen LLP and the Westside Crime Prevention Coalition



Citizens' Academy

FREE, 12 week class for community members

When you think of a police department, perhaps some of the first images that come to mind are a uniform and a badge. That certainly paints part of the picture. However, there's so much more to see!

You can get a first-hand look at law enforcement, and learn why officers make the decisions they do by attending the 2015 Hillsboro Police Department Citizens' Academy. You'll see it takes more to operating an effective police department than just enforcement of the law. And that behind the badge, there's a person looking to make a difference in the community.

Classes begin February 5

Thursday evenings through April 23

6:30 pm - 10 pm; pre-registration required

For more information, call 503-681-5207 or email earleen.reimann@hillsboro-oregon.gov





Numbers to Know

EMERGENCIES
9-1-1

Non-Emergency
Dispatch
503-629-0111

Hillsboro
Records Division
503-681-6175

Hillsboro
Mediation Services
503-615-6651

Hillsboro
Code Enforcement
503-615-6645

Hillsboro
Volunteer Services
503-681-6474

Hillsboro Domestic
Violence Program
503-615-6740

City of Hillsboro
503-681-6100

Community Enhancement Team

CET is committed to working with its residential and business partners to facilitate community excellence through safety education, crime prevention, problem-solving, and resource assistance.

Crime Prevention Specialists

Residential Community - West of Brookwood

Julie Carrasco

503-615-6756

julie.carrasco@hillsboro-oregon.gov

Residential Community - East of Brookwood

Brandi Gilbert

503-615-6785

brandi.gilbert@hillsboro-oregon.gov

Business Community

Earleen Reimann

503-681-5207

earleen.reimann@hillsboro-oregon.gov

Hillsboro Police Department

West Precinct

250 SE 10th Avenue

Hillsboro, OR 97123

East Precinct

20795 NW Cornell, Suite 100

Hillsboro, OR 97124

HPD Website

Hillsboro-Oregon.gov/police

Like us on Facebook

Facebook.com/hillsboropd

Follow us on Twitter

Twitter.com/hillsboropolice

Sign up for the City of Hillsboro's electronic newsletter Stay Connected.

Join the 1,400+ Hillsboro neighbors who already receive the City of Hillsboro's e-newsletter, Stay Connected. Every two weeks, you will find out about the latest news, events, family activities and other information about City of Hillsboro libraries, parks, streets and public safety services. To receive Stay Connected, e-mail: StayConnected@Hillsboro-Oregon.gov