

2011 – Illinois Crime Prevention Association Award Nominations

Chief of the Year – A Chief of Police who has given support to the efforts of the Crime Prevention Unit and it's Officer(s) or practitioners that is above and beyond the normal realm.

Three Nominations for Chief of the Year – PLEASE SELECT ONE

Chief Dean Strzelecki – Niles Police Department

Chief Strzelecki has been a strong proponent of crime prevention his entire career.

Dean Strzelecki started drug education programs in Niles in 1990 with the PRIDE (Positive Response In Drug Education) and DARE programs. He took an active role in presenting talks and other crime prevention programs.

As Chief of Police, Dean Strzelecki has always encouraged Officers to take an active role in the community. Dean Strzelecki leads by example when it comes to community involvement. He is an active member in the Chamber of Commerce, Optimist Club, and other local organizations. Without having a dedicated Crime Prevention Unit, Dean Strzelecki has never turned down a request from the community to perform crime prevention activities. He always ensures programs continue on annually such as the Citizens Police Academy, National Night Out, and bi-monthly meetings with neighborhood Community Policing Beats. Dean Strzelecki has always ensured members of the Niles Police Department stay active with the ICPA, including making considerations for members who took on executive board positions with the ICPA.

Dean Strzelecki attempts to attend every crime prevention event. If he cannot make an event, he always ensures a member of his executive staff is present to represent him. When attending crime prevention events, he does not sit on the sidelines and watch; he rolls up his sleeves and participates.

Chief Pamela Church – Western Springs Police Department

The success of the Western Springs Police Department crime prevention and safety education programs would not be possible without the guidance, support, and assistance from Chief Pamela Church. She has shared her knowledge from over 28 years of law enforcement experience by implementing or strengthening programs/services offered such as: National Night Out, Bike Rodeo, 911 Cell Phone Bank, Educational Talks, Residential/Commercial Security Surveys, Night Watch Program, Home Security Door Hangers, Stop Car Burglaries, Vacation Checks, Station Tours, and Prescription Drug Take Back. Despite the tightening of Village budgets and department re-organizations, Chief Church has made an ongoing effort to keep crime prevention strong. In 2010, she sent the Crime Prevention Officer to a 3-day Neighborhood Watch Training Seminar in Michigan. In 2011, we implemented the program that has grown to about 300 active households. Under her direction, we have seen a constant decrease in overall crime statistics despite a steady increase of call volume. We were voted 2nd out of a list of 50 best places to raise your children by BusinessWeek.com, with one of the rankings based on "risk of crime." What is most impressive is that our agency has won the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge in our agencies category 3 times, the Bike/Pedestrian Safety Award twice, Rookie of the Year Award, and the Railroad Safety Award. On the National level, we have won in our agencies category 2 times, and the Bike/Pedestrian Safety Award. I believe she is very deserving of Chief of the Year due to her devotion to our agency and the philosophy of crime prevention.

In memory of Chief J. O'Connell – Tinley Park Police Department

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world,” is a famous quote from Anne Frank that describes our Police Chief. He spent thirty-nine years in his law enforcement career making a huge difference in the lives of many people. It is a privilege and honor to nominate the late Micheal J. O'Connell for Illinois Chief of the Year in his memory. He passed away suddenly in May 2011.

He was widely respected and influential throughout the Illinois law enforcement community, receiving the “Police Chief of the Year” award from the Illinois State Crime Commission. He was active on numerous Illinois Chiefs of Police committees, including those focusing on domestic terrorism and homeland security, and served on the Executive Board of the South Suburban Association of Chiefs of Police.

As Chief, he was always thinking about our residents and business communities and how to keep them safe. Often you would find him at Chamber meetings speaking to businesses about the latest scams and giving them tips to stay safe. He was an approachable Chief who made a positive impact on everyone that he encountered. The S.A.L.T. organization, Neighborhood Watch program, Child Passenger Safety Program, Crime Prevention, and Elderly Service Officers are programs that have thrived because of the influence of our Chief.

Officer of the Year – An Officer or Crime Prevention Specialist who has implemented new programs or assisted in community events or projects that promote the Crime Prevention concept.

Three Nominations for Officer of the Year – PLEASE SELECT ONE

Officer Danielle Stevens – Western Springs Police Department

Officer Danielle Stevens is responsible for coordinating the crime prevention/safety education programs in our community. In 2011, she presented Operation Lifesaver to 866 children; Stranger Danger to 336 children; Cyberbullying to 118 students; Bicycle Safety to 1188 children; and Be Safe/Be Seen on Halloween to approximately 200 pre-school children. Every June, she's at Safety Village for 2 weeks where 75 children are taught over 50 life safety skills. She assists with Peer Jury that heard 30 cases last year. She is an Elderly Service Officer and coordinates the “I Live Alone” and “Cell Phones for Seniors” programs, and hosted 2 AARP Driver's Safety Classes. In May, she assisted in the development of the 7th and 8th Grade Girls Self Defense and Awareness 2-Day Seminar where she wrote and presented specialized lesson plans about Teen Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Preventing Date Rape. With the funding from a PEERS grant, she coordinated with 9 other agencies to create a railroad safety video. In addition, in 2011 she implemented a new Neighborhood Watch Program that has grown to over 300 households this year. Officer Stevens also prepared the 2010 Traffic Safety Challenge. Due to her devotion to the community and programs, she helped lead our department to winning the 2010 Illinois Traffic Challenge Bike and Pedestrian Award, and 1st place agency award. In addition, our agency won the 2010 National Traffic Challenge award in our category. Officer Stevens' ongoing commitment to provide crime prevention and public education programs, truly exemplifies her dedication to the department and to the community.

Officer Denise Bode – Lemont Police Department

Officer Bode is a 30-year veteran of law enforcement. After a successful 28-year career with the Will County Sheriff's Department, Officer Bode serves our community in several capacities including Elderly Service Officer (ESO). In the past year, Officer Bode has accomplished many successes and the following are offered as highlights of her achievements:

- The implementation of Lemont's Local Seniors and Law Enforcement Together Council (SALT). Officer Bode was instrumental in making SALT a reality in Lemont. She devotes much of her personal time to this organization and its activities.
- The implementation of a Drug Drop-Off Program for the safe and legal disposal of prescription drugs and over-the-counter medication. Since its inception over 1000 pounds of discarded drugs and medications have been collected and properly disposed of.
- Officer Bode coordinated our Senior Bracelet Program. (Emergency Notification Program) which reaches over 400 seniors for prompt and accurate sharing of information with first responders.

Officer Bode has been a certified Elderly Service Officer for over ten years. She brings enthusiasm and caring to her job everyday. Her programs are designed with seniors as consultants and evaluated by seniors to gauge effectiveness. Officer Bode makes sure that each senior is treated with respect and dignity whether they are seeking information or advice, or the victim of a crime. She spearheads our network of information sharing with seniors for any specific crime pattern targeting seniors, especially gypsy scams. It is a pleasure to nominate Officer Denise Bode for the 2011 Officer of the Year.

Community Education Specialist Mary Browning

I would like to recommend Community Education Specialist Mary Browning for ICPA Officer of the Year. Mary Browning has worked for the Naperville Police Department for over seven years. During this time she has implemented many new programs. Mary has created programs for the Scouts including "Scouts Play It Safe" and "Scouts CSI". These programs allow both Boy and Girl Scouts to complete safety requirements for various badges. Mary also works with individual scout groups for specific merit badges.

Throughout the school year, Mary visits fourteen elementary schools presenting safety programs. In the third grade she presents "On Your Own" a program designed to help children handle the situations that may arise when they are home alone. In the fourth grade she presents "Be Smart, Be Safe". This three-part program offers safe rules to follow, suspect identification and Internet safety. Mary also developed and teaches a program for fifth grade students on Internet safety.

In addition, Mary presents safety education programs at Safety Town and daycare centers and offers a program called "You Can't Be Too Careful" for sixth grade students. She also coordinates tours of the police department, assists with the Citizens Police Academy and the Crime Prevention Calendar and teaches Driver's Safety classes. Mary worked with the traffic unit and the Community Radio Watch (CRW) to develop a cell phone education program for drivers. This program monitors the use of cell phones in a school zone, educates drivers about proper use and finally enforces improper cell phone usage. Mary Browning is a creative, energetic and valuable member of the Naperville Police Department.

Citizen of the Year – A citizen who has supported Crime Prevention concepts for their community.

Four Nominations for Citizen of the Year – PLEASE SELECT ONE

Ron Neukirch – Niles Police Department

Mr. Neukirch has been a Volunteer with the Niles Police Department for the past 5 years. Mr. Neukirch is an Alumnus of the Niles Citizens Police Academy and Community Emergency Response Team training. Mr. Neukirch has volunteered over 100 hours this year with the police department's crime prevention programs, including attending a 32 hour class to be a CERT instructor. Mr. Neukirch has received additional training in crime prevention, which he uses to man crime prevention booths and assist at other Village events. Mr. Neukirch continually brings forth new programs for the police volunteers to become more involved in community activities and helps implement the programs.

Peter Buinauskas - Western Springs Police Department

In March 2011, a resident and parent of four, Peter Buinauskas, approached the police department with an idea of creating a yearly, free 2-day girls self defense and awareness program open to girls in grades 7-8. After several meetings with the Crime Prevention Officer and a local self-defense academy, Countryside Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ), Mr. Buinauskas submitted a grant proposal to Western Springs Foundation for Educational Excellence (WSFEE). On 4/14/11, he was notified that he was approved for a grant in the amount of \$1,911.00. On 5/24/11 and 5/25/11, from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m., the “7th and 8th Grade Girls Self Defense and Awareness 2-Day Seminar” was held in the McClure Jr. High Gym. The event was hosted by Peter Buinauskas, in partnership with CPO Stevens (WSPD) and Professor Pablo Ortega (BJJ), for two great sessions of information and real life self defense techniques that provided valuable life skills as the girls prepare to enter high school and later college. Approximately 70 girls participated, and each received a customized drawstring bag with informational safety materials. Officer Stevens spoke about Teen Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Preventing Date Rape. Professor Ortega provided hands on self-defense lessons. Mr. Buinauskas' idea turned into an incredibly valuable and successful event. He said, “Compare it to swimming, you can talk about it in your living room all you want but it's different in the pool.” It's our job to promote safety and protect our children. He's in the process of securing funding for the 2012 seminar through grants and private funding.

Perry Dubish – Tinley Park Police Department

“A pessimist, they say, sees a glass as being half empty; an optimist sees the same glass as being half full. But a giving person sees a glass of water and starts looking for someone who might be thirsty.” *G. Donald Gale*
The above quote truly describes my nomination for the Illinois Crime Prevention Association's Citizen of the Year. He spent the last twenty-five years working as a patrol officer; twenty-two years have been at his current department. For the last eight years he has been actively involved as a Boy Scout leader and Assistant Scout Master. His son has been out of the program for a number of years after earning the rank of Eagle Scout. These teen scouts have had the opportunity to work with a dedicated law enforcement officer who brings all the positive attributes to his troop. As a leader he will never hesitate to assist at various law enforcement activities and community activities bringing along his Boy Scout volunteers. Since 2006, he has brought out the troop's tent and volunteers to assist with national Night Out. Under their leader's direction the troop has set up, worked the event and assisted in clean up. This National award-winning event would not be possible without their assistance. He truly makes a difference one person at a time. It is a pleasure and honor to nominate this Assistant Scout Master for Citizen of the Year.

Jack and Laura Frohn – Naperville Police Department

Jack and Laura Frohn donate many hours to the City of Naperville through their work on Community Radio Watch (CRW), Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) and as tour guides for the Naperville Police Department. Jack and Laura work as a dynamic team to offer their time and energy to all these programs. Both Jack and Laura are enthusiastic and knowledgeable as NPD tour guides. The tour groups are often Scouts and interested residents. They manage to fit the tours into their busy schedules as employees of the US Postal Service. CRW and CERT are valuable volunteer organizations in our community. To participate in these organizations, the volunteers are required to attend many hours of training. CRW members work at festivals and other city events. They provide after-hours security for the vendors and the sponsoring organizations. CRW also assists the police department in patrolling our community to look for suspicious activity and also report open garage doors to homeowners. As members of CERT, Jack and Laura are trained in disaster preparedness. They learn how to respond to disasters in their area until professional responders are available to help. Jack and Laura spent many hours searching for two missing females in two separate high profile missing persons investigations. The Frohns have donated hundreds of hours to these three activities. Jack and Laura are constant and consistent volunteers who generously donate their time and talents to make our community safer. They are the epitome of volunteerism and are deserving recipients of the ICPA Citizens of the Year.

Organization of the Year – An organized group (i.e. SALT Scouts, etc.) that has made a significant contribution to a Crime Prevention Unit to achieve a successful program or event.

Five Nominations for Organization of the Year – PLEASE SELECT ONE

Naperville Junior Women's Club

I would like to recommend the Naperville Junior Woman's Club for the ICPA Organization of the Year. The Junior Woman's Club has worked closely with the Naperville Police Department for many years. They coordinate the Safety Town program. This weeklong program is held at the Safety Town facility for six or seven weeks each summer. Approximately 1700 children are involved in the program each year. The Junior Woman's Club also assists the Police Department with the annual Child ID event, which is held at Safety Town. The U.S. Secret Service, the Naperville Police Department and the Junior Woman's Club offer the program free of charge to area residents. This is an opportunity for parents to have their children fingerprinted and photographed. In addition, the Naperville Junior Woman's Club is the longtime sponsor of the Helping Hand program. This safe house program was established in 1967 through the combined efforts of the Naperville Police Department, School District 203 and NJWC. The purpose of the Helping Hand program is to provide adult assistance in an emergency situation, such as a child being lost, frightened, injured or ill. The Junior Woman's Club has provided the window signs for the program since 1967. Approximately 3000 homes participate in the program.

The Naperville Junior Woman's Club has been in existence for 44 years. During this time the organization has donated more than \$1,000,000 to the community. Members of NJWC provide hands-on service and philanthropic donations to those in need; they educate the community and give volunteer assistance to other philanthropic organizations. They are a community treasure.

Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association of Schaumburg

As have many other law enforcement agencies, the Schaumburg Police Department has experienced staff reductions and budgetary constraints over the past few years. The Crime Prevention Unit, which formerly was staffed by 4 officers and one supervisor, is now staffed by one civilian Crime Prevention Specialist and one supervisor. In an effort to maintain our services to the community, we have increasingly relied on our Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association to assist in staffing various community events that previously our crime prevention officers would attend. The activities of CPAAAS in support of our crime prevention efforts include attending various community events, providing crime prevention materials, answering questions, making kids buttons, and finger-printing children. In 2009, 147 CPAAAS volunteers donated 568 hours at 16 different events. Since then our Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association has stepped forward to an even greater extent to assist us. In 2010, 282 CPAAAS volunteers donated 1043 hours at 34 events in the community. Thus far in 2011, 153 CPAAAS volunteers donated 826 hours at 21 events in Schaumburg. Without the generous assistance of CPAAAS, the Schaumburg Police Department would never have been able to continue the amount and quality of our community involvement and outreach efforts.

Aurora Leadership Institute

The Aurora Leadership Institute (ALI) is a collaborative Aurora area community program for 7th and 8th grade students who reside in Aurora or attend Aurora schools. The Institute is designed to provide opportunities for the development of Ethical and Servant Leaders. Local Police Officers serve as team leaders and mentors to the participants during the program. With the addition of mentors, workshops, and outlined expectations for service projects thus far 78% of our participants have actively engaged in the design and or implementation of a service project to positively impact the city of Aurora. The program is intended to be free of charge to all participants, so the most deserving applicants can participate, no matter what their family's financial situation is.

Niles Citizen Corps

This Organization consists of 25 Volunteers who aid the Police Department and Village with everything from Disaster Response to Crime Prevention. The members are Citizens Police Academy Alumni that have been trained as CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) members, VIPS (Volunteers in Police Service) members and receive additional training as Police Volunteers. The group has been specially trained to run crime prevention booths at events throughout the year within the Village. The group has completed over 300 man-hours conducting crime prevention activities that could not have been conducted without burdening the police agency. This allowed crime prevention activities to take place that would not have been possible without the group's services. The group worked with Comcast Cable and created a training video for senior citizens showing commonly used scams and cons. The group has spent numerous hours acting on behalf of charities such as Special Olympics by collecting donations. Being Volunteers from within the Village helps promote the programs from a non-biased point of view that the other citizens can understand. The group's training also allows them to handle non-essential police duties such as traffic control and administrative duties during emergencies such as power outages and storms.

The Lemont Police Citizen Academy Alumni Association

The Lemont Police Department is extremely proud of its greatest partner in crime prevention: the Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association. Having learned the benefit of tapping into police expertise personally, the CPAAA hosts community presentations on topics such as gypsy scams and ruse crimes, disaster preparedness, FOID and gun ownership responsibilities, etc. to educate citizens and coordinating National Night Out events. CPAAA members volunteer their time maintaining the Initial Response Program, a medical alert and emergency contact program for seniors and those with life-threatening medical conditions. Members contact clients for heat and weather alerts to check on their condition and are responsible for updating all client information. They are an integral part of our largest outreach program to youth, Kops N Kids Day, working hard on bike registrations, assisting with Fatal Vision demonstrations and passing out free bike helmets to children. They promote Halloween safety yearly by passing out safe treats at Lemont Safety Village. Our CPAAA ensures our neediest children have happy holidays by providing gifts and clothing through the Department's Secret Santa and outreach by partnering with the Illinois State Police Trooper Clare Pfothauer to stuff gift bags for kids of two inner city schools annually. CPAAA members are found outside our Dunkin Donuts collecting money for the annual Special Olympics/Torch Run Cop on the Roof Top – raising over \$5000.00 this year! CPAAA does their own fundraising for our K-9 program and to support our Department's unbudgeted Chaplain Program enabling our Chaplain to assist citizens in crisis.

Unit of the Year – A Crime Prevention Unit that has worked together in achieving successful programs/events that help educate and promote safety throughout their community.

One Nomination Received for 2011 Unit of the Year – No Voting Necessary