

Citizen Police Academy Synopsis

The Carpentersville Police Department is currently hosting a Citizen Police Academy for residents and interested organizations/businesses of the Village. The class of 2009 has 24 participants who meet at the Police Department every Wednesday for ten weeks. Significant interest in this program has resulted in a waiting list for possible future classes. For those of you that might be interested in some of the topics discussed during this ten week program, a brief weekly review is provided below:

Week 1: Police Chief David R. Neumann welcomed program participants and discussed the vital role we all play in improving our hometown. Improving the quality of life and making Carpentersville a safer community for all was the focal point of Chief's address to the audience.

Officer Michael Salvaggio, Citizen Police Academy Facilitator, introduced himself and briefly discussed the purpose of the program and academy rules and regulations. The class then had an opportunity to introduce themselves to one another.

Commander Dean Stiegemeier began formal instruction with an overview of law enforcement. Law enforcement's early days and Sir Robert Peele's Nine Policing principle's were explored. A history of the Carpentersville Police Department was shared including old tidbits of information and folklore. The Commander then gave an overview of the way technology has changed the profession from the street officer all the way to high profile investigations. The evening concluded with a department tour.

Week 2: Deputy Chief Michael Gillette provided valuable insight on what it takes to become a police officer for the Village of Carpentersville. This recruitment and training segment included the initial testing process, physical and psychological requirements of the job and the internal promotion process.

Commander Scott Adams then discussed the very important patrol function of the department. Members learned the three different, distinct shifts within the department and how resources are allocated within the patrol division. Manpower, prioritizing calls for service, call load analysis, beat maps and report writing was discussed.

Officer Michael Salvaggio ended the evening with a short community policing presentation. Internal programs such as Neighborhood Watch, Crime Free Housing, Citizen Police Academy, National Night Out, Strengthening Families and the Gang Intervention Program were outlined.

Week 3: Sergeant John Kreutzer gave an overview of the Investigations Division. Discussion focused on the detective bureau and the Community Response Team (CRT). The internal selection process of choosing detectives/investigators and the important roles they have in policing and solving crime was shared. Sgt. Kreutzer's presentation ended with a display of seized contraband and a field testing exercise of illegal drugs.

Assistant Kane County State's Attorney Elizabeth Lovig provided valuable insight into the legal guidelines that police must operate within. Where and how police powers are granted, statutory guidelines, search and seizure, arrest powers, warrantless arrests and the complaint/charging process was reviewed. ASA Lovig also shared charging/arrest statistics within Kane County and the necessary professional relationship of law enforcement agencies within the county and the Kane County State's Attorney's Office.

Week 4: Commander Scott Adams gave insight into arrest procedures and department protocol. The Power Point presentation was followed up with some video showing arrest situations and encounters.

Commander Timothy Bosshart then gave an overview of the Kane County Child Advocacy Center and the cases they investigate and prosecute. Understanding the differences between juvenile investigations and adult investigations was stressed. The evening concluded with department Social Worker Griselda Hernandez giving a presentation on domestic violence.

Week 5: Officer Matthew Hoffman provided training that gave participants the opportunity to learn the importance of firearms safety and handling. Once basic information was given, the class had the opportunity to participate interactively using a firearms simulator. This simulator depicted real-life situations requiring the student to choose between shoot and no shoot decision making. The evening concluded with an assessment center reviewing their simulating training and the encounters they faced.

Week 6: Retired Sergeant Michael McAlevy gave an overview of the department's Response to Resistance General Order and the quick decisions officers are required to make in combative situations. Justification of the response required controlling the encounter and how those justifications are made and reviewed by command personnel was stressed. Once the review of the order was complete the class broke up into three groups with one practicing handcuffing techniques, another practicing hand to hand combat/control and the third learning the use and deployment of the taser.

Week 7: Commander Scott Adams gave a presentation on Traffic Enforcement to the class. Statistical facts regarding speed, traffic crashes, injury and fatal crashes were shared. Many questions regarding this topic were asked of Commander Adams. The evening concluded with the class being given the opportunity to conduct mock traffic stops under the watchful eye of officers who provided praise and constructive criticism.

Week 8: Evidence Technician Beth Accomando presented the interesting topic of crime scene processing. Commander Bosshart conducted a practical exercise in which participants had the opportunity to learn fingerprint lifting and other evidence collection used in law enforcement. All members then had the opportunity to investigate a mock crime scene and use their new evidence collection skills and investigative abilities in trying to solve the crime. Class members did an excellent job solving the crime and were thorough in collecting evidence.

Week 9: Officer's Niles and Elliott brought their K-9 partners and provided detailed information about the Carpentersville Police Department's canine program. Legal issues regarding dog use in crime fighting was discussed and the presentation concluded with numerous demonstrations with K-9's "Keeper & Bull." The evening ended with Social Worker Hernandez and Community Resource Officer Salvaggio providing a Gang Awareness Presentation focusing on gang crime activity in suburban Chicago.

Week 10: Chief David Neumann addressed graduates and certificates were awarded to class members. A group picture was taken and the program ended with a dinner at the police department. Congratulations to the Spring 2009 Citizen Police Academy!