



## NEWS RELEASE

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### For Immediate Release

## Wheat Ridge Police Department Volunteers Graduate from Academy

**WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. April 27, 2018** -- The Wheat Ridge Police Department (WRPD) celebrated its most recent class of 2018 WRPD Volunteer Academy graduates at a dinner held recently at the Richards Hart Estate. Each graduate received a special certificate presented by the program supervisor Sergeant Brian Wilkinson and Chief Dan Brennan.

“Our volunteers play a vital role in extending our services of providing public safety to the community,” stated Chief Dan Brennan. “Volunteers participate in local events like the bicycle Criterium, Trunk or Treat, Holiday Lighting and Operation Blue Santa, as well as the Carnation Festival. They help with speed monitoring, traffic control, the walk and watch program, and community outreach, and assist with other tasks that help the department meet its goals.”

This year’s graduating class:

Richard Blackburn  
Andrea Prall  
Melisa White  
Alexander Cueller-Monza  
Brian Whitehorn  
William Powell  
Julie Calvetti  
Mary-Margaret Coates

Mark White  
Bartlomies Kurpet  
Sharon Hebenstreit  
Larry Harper  
Susan Parker  
Rebeca Prado  
Désirée Lane  
Donald Vecchio

During the WRPD Volunteer Academy, participants learn about all the aspects of community policing and the role they play as volunteers for the department. Police and civilian personnel present lectures and demonstrations in order to give participants an understanding of the department's mission, practices and operations, and well as such areas as community relations, public information, crime prevention, Crisis Intervention Training, personal safety, and wildlife safety and recognition. Volunteers complete an application, an interview, and submit three references as well as agree to a background investigation. “After completing our Volunteer Academy, volunteers work closely with our officers allowing us to better focus on law enforcement and keeping our community safe,” continued Brennan.

Volunteers who graduate from the academy attend monthly dinner meetings on the first Thursday of the month and agree to participate in special events and commit to volunteer opportunities that arise.

Topics presented during the Volunteer Academy include:

- Report Writing
- Crime Scene Investigation/crime lab function overview

- Public Information and Media Relations
- Wildlife Safety and Recognition
- First Aid and CPR
- Communications
- C.I.T. Crisis Intervention Training
- Radar and Laser Training
- Personal Safety Training
- Community Awareness
- LifeTrak
- Dementia Training
- Driver Training

Duties include:

- Special events: Trunk or Treat, Operation Blue Santa, Carnation Festival
- Clerical Assistance
- Speed Monitoring
- Walk and Watch Program

Criteria for applicants to the Volunteer Academy must:

- live or work in the City of Wheat Ridge
- be 21 years of age or older
- be willing to sign a *Waiver of Liability*
- not have any felony convictions
- not have any domestic violence convictions
- not have any significant or recent misdemeanor convictions
- not be registered sex offenders

For more information, [www.ci.wheatridge.co.us](http://www.ci.wheatridge.co.us) or call 303-235-2910.

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