



Photos by Nikki Davidson

TOP RIGHT: Astoria police's Andrew Randall plays the drums for Public Nuisance and Yard Dogs. **ABOVE:** Astoria police's Chris McNeary performs with his band. **LEFT:** Astoria police's Kevin Berry sings and plays the guitar for Public Nuisance and Yard Dogs.

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was shot and killed while attempting to serve an arrest warrant.

"We kind of wanted to support that organization because they had done a lot for that officer," added McNeary.

The performance at the fairgrounds was a hit, and the band craved more opportunities to perform.

"We were like, 'this is the coolest thing ever; it's better than work,'" McNeary said.

But just after Public Nuisance built up

a regular schedule of gigs in Astoria, the coronavirus pandemic forced lockdowns and cancellations.

Now that venues are opening up for live performances, the officers are relaunching their musical outlet. They are, however, making some logistical changes due to the difficulties that come with getting their law enforcement schedules in alignment.

Public Nuisance will continue to book shows whenever all five law enforcement officers are available. Still, the three Astoria police officers have formed a splinter band named Yard Dogs, with availability to

book gigs more often. The next Yard Dogs performance is Friday night at the Worker's Tavern New Year's Eve party, and the band will play from 10 p.m. until after midnight.

The group is excited to join the party in a brand new way.

"It's definitely a nice way to show people that cops aren't all jerks," said McNeary.

"It's helped the being a relatable human factor to see that we're not just super uptight, rigid people outside of work," added Berry.

Public Nuisance and Yard Dogs play the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s and modern-day country, rock and pop music.

"You name it, we'll play it," said McNeary. "If people want to hear it, we'll learn it."

The trio aims to create a safe, fun way for people to get out and celebrate the holiday at Worker's Tavern.

"You know, if you come to a venue where cops are playing — there's a good likelihood nothing crazy is going to go down because the people in the audience are cops," McNeary said with a chuckle.