

5 Minutes with... Stacey Brown

Get to know Stacey Brown, the former executive director of United Way of Clatsop County, who joined the Seaside Police Department as its communications manager Oct. 12. Brown, of Warrenton, was officially sworn-in during a Seaside City Council meeting Nov. 23.

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

Q: How long did you work at United Way and what did you do before that?

A: About a year and a half. And before that, I was the membership and HR director for the Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce.

Q: What brought you from United Way of Clatsop County to the Seaside Police Department?

A: A better job fit overall. I love the law, so that was a big draw in applying. Overall, I think just working with people and not being in a basement were appealing to me. Definitely a great team here. I thrive way better in a team environment. I mean, I work great on my own — and I did have my board and some volunteers — but on a constant basis, it was just me.

Q: How has everything been going since you started?

A: Awesome. I love it. Lots of learning to do and getting certified in all the programs, so I have access to do the job.

Q: What are your primary responsibilities as communications manager?

A: Making sure that the 911 center operates smoothly.

Q: How many dispatchers are there?

A: Seven. We have a unique situation. Seven is a lot for a small community, but my team also does the records, property and evidence management and also has all the customer service parts to it, too — handling incoming calls, people coming to the window. That's why we have seven: There are other aspects to their jobs, other than handling 911. We have a 20-hour-per-week employee on the records.

Q: Have you worked for a police department or in the legal field before?

A: No. I took a lot of law classes in college, because I just loved it. Of course, I took business law, because my degree is in human resources. So I can manage people and everything — that was why I was hired, besides my HR knowledge. The law has always interested me, so I love being here. I love getting to learn all the stuff I'm learning and helping people is the biggest thing I thrive on and love to do. That's what drew me to United Way in the first place, but here, you kind of get the best of both worlds. You get to help people on a daily basis, through



KATHERINE LACAZE/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Stacey Brown was sworn in as the new communications manager for the Seaside Police Department during a Seaside City Council meeting Nov. 23. Brown, the former executive director for United Way of Clatsop County, started working at the department in mid-October.

the phones and at the counter, and I'm in the law enforcement business and I have a great team. And I want to say, too, Chief Dave Ham is amazing. I really admire his management style. He knows what he's doing and he can make people feel good. I just love that everybody loves him and respects him because he knows how to work with people. And he's pretty new to his job, too. He's only been here about a year.

Q: In this line of work, how much do you learn from formal education versus on-the-job experience?

A: I've learned a lot more in the real world than I did in college, although college is a great foundation. College gives you the "here's what's going to happen," and real life gives you all the little details that go along with what happens, and all the little nuances. You're always learning in human resources. The Family and Medical Leave Act alone you can learn for days. College is a great foundation to all the learning you're

going to do on the job.

Q: What is about working with people that you like?

A: I just love the fact that you can draw from each other and come up with excellent ideas for how to make changes or best practices. In every aspect, when you're brainstorming, having a group to talk to, makes it easier to arrive at a solution. And I'm a people person. I thrive in a group environment, where I can bounce ideas off people and they can bounce ideas off me and we can come up with some great stuff.

Q: How important is it for you and the dispatchers to know specific laws?

A: I have some pretty savvy staff, but what level they have to know, I'm not sure. I haven't quite learned that aspect yet. I think most of their knowledge is dealing with the emergency aspect of it. For most of the specific law stuff that comes through, we give it to the police department. We deal with little things; people will call all the time asking, "Is the burn ban up?" or, "Why do I have to have mud flaps on my vehicle?" So you have to know those little laws or have the resources to get that information if needed.

Q: As the communications manager, do you interact with other law enforcement agencies?

A: It really depends. A lot of the times, yes. But if it's something directly with police business, then it's the chief or the lieutenant. But in the line of the communications, than yes. I work in tandem with Jeff Rusiecki in Astoria, for instance. He's the 911 manager for

Astoria, so if stuff goes on there, he lets me know and that kind of thing.

Q: How long have you lived in this area?

A: All my life. I was born in Astoria.

Q: What do you like about the area?

A: Its obvious beauty and the fact that my family is here and my friends. I've tried to move away a couple times, and I wasn't gone very long. That was in my younger, before-children days. And you just come back, because it is such a great place to live and raise your kids. And I've really grown to love the Seaside community. When I was with United Way, I would come down for Seaside Chamber of Commerce meetings and Seaside Downtown Development Association meetings, and I just really got to know the community and love it, which is another draw for the job. The people here are pretty great.

Q: Do you anticipate staying at this job for a while?

A: Yeah. I'll retire from here. I've never been so sure before. In fact, on Veterans Day, I had the day off. And I woke up and I went, "Oh, I don't get to go to work today." And that's the first time I've ever done that in all my life, where I woke up and I was sad because I couldn't come to work. And it's just kind of like, "Yes, this is where I'm going to be." I love coming to work every day now.

SEASIDE POLICE LOG

Nov. 23
5:10 a.m., Broadway and Wahanna Road: Officer responded to report of suspicious activity. Upon contact, officer inquired a group of subjects but could not determine their involvement.

4:59 p.m., 500 block of South Prom: Citizen called for assistance in locating a family member who had taken her son for a walk and was an hour overdue. Officer advised, then citizen called back to say her son had been returned to her, no officer needed.

6:01 p.m., 2200 block of North Wahanna Road: 911 caller reported vehicle off side of the road almost into a ditch. Officer responded and checked the area, but vehicle was no longer there.

Nov. 24
1:49 p.m., 500 block of South Downing Street: Anonymous person reports a woman screaming until hoarse. Officer made contact. Woman is contacting family and counselors for follow up.

6:25 p.m., 1100 block of Fifth Avenue: Officer assisted subjects exchange information after they were involved in a minor motor vehicle accident.

Nov. 25
1:07 p.m., 1300 block of South Roosevelt Drive: Off-duty officer called in suspicious circumstances. Two subjects going around the back of the building that was recently broken into. Officers made contact.

6:06 p.m., Avenue G and Holladay Drive: Caller reporting person under the influence of drugs standing in middle of street. Officer searched the area to no avail.

Nov. 26
2:23 p.m., 400 block of Avenue A: Anonymous report of an intoxicated male urinating behind the building. Officer responded to the area, unable to locate.

9:09 p.m., 400 block of South Franklin Drive: Caller requesting officers to have subject leave her property. She specifically stated she did not wish contact from officers. Officer was unable to locate subject, gone upon arrival.

Nov. 27
1:33 p.m., 700 block of Avenue B: 911 caller reported subjects trying to break in her door. Officer checked the area and no damage was done to the door. Subjects are trespassed from the residence.

6:49 p.m., North Columbia Street: Caller reported theft of services. Officer responded and advised.

8:26 p.m., Columbia Street and Broadway: 911 caller reported verbal disturbance. Officers responded and made contact. Verbal argument between father and son.

Nov. 28
2:08 p.m., U.S. Highway 101 and Seaside High School: 911 caller reporting a vehicle driving erratically. Officers responded and stopped the vehicle and advised drivers of the complaints.

2:29 p.m., Spruce Drive and Wahanna Road: Caller reported elderly male in wheelchair on road hitchhiking and was concerned for his welfare. Officer made contact, subject was getting a ride home and was fine.

6:08 p.m., 1100 block of Avenue B: Officer assisted Clatsop County Sheriff's Office with serving a restraining order.

Nov. 29
8:52 a.m., 300 block of South Wahanna Road: Caller reported a hit-and-run to his parked vehicle overnight. Officer responded.

7:35 p.m., 2700 block of U.S. Highway 101: Private party had

vehicle towed that was blocking their door. Classic Towing removed a white GMC Van, no plates.

Nov. 30
4:48 a.m., 2100 block of Lewis and Clark Road: Officers responded to the report of disturbance. Upon officer arrival, subjects were separated. Peace restored. Verbal in nature only.

6:03 p.m., 1100 block of Broadway: Officer assisted in information exchange in a minor motor vehicle accident.

Dec. 1
4:28 p.m., 300 block of South Roosevelt Drive: Officer responded at the request of staff to trespass subject from store. Officer located and advised subject of trespass.

7:20 p.m., Necanicum and First Avenue: 911 caller reports hearing explosions in the area. Officer advised it was fireworks.

10:17 p.m., 300 block of South Roosevelt Drive: Officers responded to report of suspicious person. Upon officer arrival, subject was trying to wrangle some stray kittens.

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