

With calls on the rise, police fill the ranks

Seaside Police Department gets new staff 'up and running'

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

The Seaside Police Department's biggest challenge in the year ahead is meeting personnel needs, Chief Dave Ham said Monday in his annual report to city councilors.

"We're in the middle of the hiring process with the death of Jason Goodding and the retirement of (Lt.) Steve Barnett," Ham said. The department is ready to hire four new officers and plans promotions within its ranks.

Sgt. Guy Knight is the department's lead detective. A second detective position is vacant, Ham said. Sgt. Bruce Hall is a 32-year veteran, and Sgt. Gary Welbom has served on the force five years. Cpls. William Barnes and Michael Baugher each have 17 years experience. Cpl. Rich Nofield is a 13-year veteran.

Stacey Brown, who joined the department last year, leads the eight-member communications staff.

Officer Jeff Oja, formerly with Clatsop County Sheriff's Office parole and probation, is the Seaside Police Department's newest officer.

Ham said he aimed to get new personnel "up and running."

"We're going to have a pretty good mix between some very lengthy tenured officers and some new ones," he said. "One of the challenges you have with new personnel is molding and training them and mentoring them to the point where they're ready to get out on the streets to perform to the best of their abilities and expectations. That's going to be a big challenge for us this year."

Public safety remains the city's No. 1 departmental expense.

Of the \$4.44 million proposed in the 2016-17 budget for public safety, the police department accounts for about

\$3.4 million, most of that in personnel services.

Seaside's population of 6,495 is served by 19 police officers, supplemented by eight dispatchers and one community service officer, Ham said.

Calls for service have increased 32 percent over the past five years, Ham said.

The rise does not necessarily indicate a rise in crime, but could be a result of increased contacts by police staff generating a higher number of log entries, he added.

Seaside police made 54 DUII arrests in 2015, down from 112 in 2014.

Ham attributed the lower number to the loss of two officers who were "very active" in drug and alcohol recognition and enforcement.

There were 11 assaults reported in 2015; four assaults were reported in 2014.

Fourteen motor vehicles were reported stolen in Seaside in 2015, Ham said, slightly more than the 11 reported car thefts in the previous year.



R.J. MARX/SEASIDE SIGNAL

Seaside Police Chief Dave Ham addresses the Seaside City Council Monday night.

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Seaside Police Chief Dave Ham

Some of those reports may include cars borrowed or lent to friends or acquaintances, Ham said.

Sgt. Goodding's death in February was still very much a part of Ham's presentation.

Ham and others attended the Oregon Fallen Law Enforcement Officers Memo-

rial Ceremony earlier this month.

Goodding was shot to death in February after attempting to arrest Phillip Max Ferry on a warrant.

The name of Coos County Sheriff's Deputy Gil Datan was added to the memorial in 2016.

Datan, a Coos County deputy, was killed in an ATV accident while in the line of duty.

Next year, Goodding's name will join Datan's on the memorial wall, Ham said.

Seaside's Bob Perkel asked councilors to consider renaming Broadway Field in honor of Goodding.

SEASIDE POLICE LOG

April 22

1:42 p.m., 12th and Roosevelt: Caller reports man smoking something suspicious in the bus stop; police locate the man who had moved to the corner to hold up his sign and determine he is smoking tobacco.

7:09 p.m., 8th Avenue: Caller reports a woman sleeping in her car for several days. Police tell the caller they had contacted the subject a few days earlier. There are no plates on the car. Subject is unsure of her next move.

8:59 p.m., 12th and Roosevelt: Police assist another agency with a DUII.

April 23

7:08 p.m., N. Roosevelt: A property crime was reported.

April 24

2:52 p.m., 14th Avenue: Caller reports a vehicle parked for 4 days; police make contact with a neighbor of the owner of the vehicle who report the vehicle's owner is in the hospital. The neighbor agreed to move the vehicle to avoid further parking complaints.

9:35 p.m., S. Roosevelt: Caller reports a stolen purse; caller later reports it may have only been mislaid.

April 25

3:27 a.m., Avenue Q, southside of Old Herbs: An individual was arrested in a warrant arrest. No further information was supplied.

9:05 a.m., S. Downing: A woman said to have mental issues was checked up on by police after she came into the police station only to storm out minutes later. The visit was a welfare check.

6:49 p.m.

Ocean Vista Way: A motor vehicle accident occurred; no further information was given.

April 26

4:11 p.m., Bonnie Court: Caller reports woman running through the street screaming for the police. Police responding search the area diligently but are unable to locate the woman.

6:28 p.m.

S. Columbia: Citizen reports an intoxicated, bleeding man falling off his bicycle. The man is located by police and medical personnel; refusing attention, he returns to his residence.

April 27

2:31 a.m., S. Roosevelt: Caller asks police to speak to the person living in the room above; police contact subject who says he's not in the room, but in Astoria.

10:30 a.m., Highway 101: Emergency medical response was on scene at highway accident.

1:24 p.m.

S. Roosevelt: Someone who requested their car be gassed up turned out to have no money to pay the station attendant; a compromise was made with police intervention and the person agreed to pay his bill by midnight or be charged and arrested for theft.

1:51 p.m., Broadway: Caller reports a transient camp in a hedge near the Chamber of Commerce. When police arrived, the camp was unoccupied. Public Works was notified to cut the hedge.

3:27 p.m., Lincoln and Avenue F: Caller reports a woman

shouting from a moving vehicle that she either needs to be let out of the car or taken to the hospital. Police are unable to locate.

April 28

9:55 a.m., Broadway: Caller reports drug activity taking place inside a vehicle. Police arrive and ascertain no illegal activity is being conducted.

3:05 p.m., Avenue A: Police assist with a medical transport; patient was taken to CMH.

6:38 p.m., Broadway: Caller reports a person sleeping on the steps of a city-owned church. Police contact the individual and give him a warning. He will be moving on.

April 29

4:13 a.m., Avenue A: Criminal mischief in the third degree was reported.

4:29 a.m., Beach Drive: Criminal mischief in the third degree was reported.

3:21 p.m., S. Roosevelt Drive: Property damage was reported.

5:21 p.m., 12th Avenue and The Bridge: Caller reports someone is pulling up other peoples' crab pots. Officers investigate.

April 30

1:11 a.m., 300 block Broadway: Belligerent, intoxicated people are reported to the police who make contact. Revelers agree to get a hotel room.

3:34 a.m., Spruce Street: Caller reports someone pounding on the front door. Officers checking the area could not locate the subject.

Memorial Day observance at Legion Hall

The American Legion hosts its annual Memorial Day observance May 30 at the Legion Hall in Seaside, 1315 Broadway, at 11 a.m. Legion Riders will conduct their

annual motorcycle ride to the Turnaround. For more on this and other Legion events, including Texas Hold 'Em, Taco Tuesdays, bingo and dancing, call 503-738-5111.

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