



CAPA Citizens Assisting Police in Apex

CAPA K9 Heroes Campaign Committee are honored by APD at CAPA Annual Meeting

At the June CAPA Annual Meeting, Community Policing Officer, Kris Shuart, and Chief John Letteney recognized the efforts of the K9 Heroes Campaign with a honorary letter from Chief Letteney and a coin from the Chief's challenge Coin Program.

The K9 Heroes Campaign has raised over \$10,000 for the December event, Christmas with a Cop to help less fortunate children have a very happy Holiday. This event also strengthens the relationship of the Apex Police Department with our community.

The committee members that received this special honor were, Julia Brooks (Committee Chair), Bekki Bennett, Mary Wilhelm, Liza Caban, Don Fisher, Mike Godfrey, Sandra Johnson, and Kathy Lowell.

A Message from our Chief



I will start out my message in this first issue of the CAPA News the way I always start out during CAPA meetings. And that is with a simple, but heartfelt *THANK YOU!* Over my time as Chief of the Apex Police Department, I have seen CAPA grow not only in membership, but also in programs, outreach and impact. What has not changed? Of course it's the dedication of CAPA volunteers and the service you provide to the department and community! From our many large events and festivals downtown to the Child and Medical ID program, Christmas With A Cop, the K-9 Heroes and other programs, and assisting with our new hire process, CAPA volunteers can be seen working alongside our officers and staff and are making a difference. You are our voice to and from all aspects of our community and your involvement helps us better understand community needs and expectations. You are our "ambassadors" as well and provide a service that is beyond measure. Apex has many things to be proud of and that make us *The Peak of Good Living*; at the top of my list is CAPA and each and every one of our volunteers who give of their time and talent to support us. Congratulations on another successful year and I look forward to our continued partnership as we work collaboratively to enhance public safety and the quality of life in Apex. Now, about that "Honey Bun 1" thing.....



Richard Brooks and Chief John Letteney

Message from the CAPA President

I want to take this opportunity to thank CAPA members for another successful year! You completed a very successful K9 Hero campaign raising more than \$10K for Christmas with a Cop, continue to support the Child/Senior ID program, provided irresistible goodies and meals for the APD on many occasions, have provided outstanding assistance during the job interview process for new police officers and telecommunicator positions, played a key role in another highly successful CALEA process and, helped me bring to reality a personal vision of mine; providing a design concept and the hard work to complete and unveil "Honey Bun 1" during Peakfest!

Richard Brooks (R), CAPA President pictured here with Capt. Jacques Gilbert, APD (L)



Your hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed. I can honestly say, that every time I am at the APD, which is often, or have the opportunity to have conversation with a police officer(s), whether in the community or at a local breakfast or lunch hangout, they always tell me how much they appreciate CAPA. I especially, appreciate your hard work, as well. CAPA is all about volunteer service! Its purpose is to "Provide support and assistance through volunteerism to the Apex Police Department by partnering together to serve our community with pride and integrity". In the coming year, please consider signing up for the many and varied volunteer opportunities. There will be many opportunities to chair and serve on committees. My goal, as I hope it will be yours, is to provide a record number of volunteer service hours during FY17. Again, thank you for a great year! I look forward to working with our "veteran" members and those of you have recently joined our ranks that have already shown their eagerness to serve those who serve our community, **the APD!**

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CAPA is a non-profit, 501C3 organization
ApexCapa.org

CAPA NEWS

Citizens Assisting Police in Apex

CAPA Volunteer of the Year Award

Mike Godfrey is this year's APD Volunteer of the Year recipient. Mike has volunteered more than 150 hours with CAPA in 2016. He is always available at a moment's notice, volunteers to assist with town events or putting out parking cones, and does not mind getting dirty or taking on mundane but vital tasks. Mike has assisted with several Police Interview Boards, has written a number of grants on behalf of CAPA and is serving his second term on the CAPA Board of Directors. Mike is dedicated to volunteering, not only through CAPA, but his church, as well. He is truly a dedicated and giving man and exemplifies what it means to be a member of CAPA.



NEW CAPA MULTI-USE VEHICLE UNVEILED AT PEAKFEST MAY 6

CAPA unveiled the newest vehicle in the Apex Police Department's vehicle fleet, the **CAPA Multi-Use Vehicle**.

CAPA President Richard Brooks said, "This new addition to our CAPA vehicles will enable CAPA to serve more citizens in the community." CAPA can take our Child ID and Medical ID service on the road, help the Town of Apex with quick response to APD requests to provide shelter, food and beverage for extended outdoor investigations, DWI checkpoints and training exercises. In addition, it will enhance CAPA's ability to extend the child/senior medical ID program throughout the community by becoming mobile.

The idea was sparked in January 2013 by a call from Capt. Jacques Gilbert to CAPA President, Richard Brooks. Brooks recalls, "there was snow on the ground and the daytime temperatures were in the low teens...brutally cold!" The APD was in the midst of an extended outdoor investigation and Capt. Gilbert was wondering if CAPA could provide coffee, hot chocolate and snacks. Luckily, a nearby local business was able to provide a warm place for investigators to take a break. Brooks and his wife, Julia (now a CAPA member) grabbed the coffee pot from the kitchen counter and made a quick stop by the grocery store to provide refreshments. Shortly after, President Brooks approached Chief John Letteney with the idea of an officer rehab trailer.

CAPA began raising funds to purchase a trailer for such a project. Since that time, the Apex Lion's Club, the Peakfest Commission and individuals in the Apex community have generously supported this project. In November 2015, the Apex Fire Dept. approached Capt. Blair Myhand to inquire if his SRT could use their surplus Mobile Command vehicle, affectionately known by the fire dept. as "Honey Bun 1". Capt. Myhand declined the offer, but he recalled CAPA was in the middle of its rehab trailer project. Brooks and a few of his Board of Directors inspected the 1992 "bread truck" style vehicle and decided it would meet the needs of this project.

It took some time, but after input from CAPA members on a design concept, gathering bids to apply the design, a lot of elbow grease to remove old decals and prep the exterior for transformation, the vision was about to become a reality.

Fast forward one and a half years... "Honey Bun 1", with a newly completed face lift, was recently unveiled during Peakfest and was also in service during the recent Touch-A-Truck event, where CAPA continues its support of the APD by offering Child and Senior Medical IDs.



Pictured from left to right- Richard Brooks, CAPA President; APD Chief John Letteney; and 2017 Volunteer of the Year, Mike Godfrey

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CAPA: Serving Those Who Serve by Amy Lori

Article from Suburban Living Magazine

Posted date 3.23.17

<http://apex.suburbanlivingmag.com/capa-serving-those-who-serve-by-amy-iori/>

Back in the day, when people imagined an encounter with the Apex Police Department, the thought might have been accompanied by visions of sirens and flashing lights and a traffic ticket, or something much worse. Around here that has changed, thanks to a group of Apex residents building bridges between our community and our police officers for nearly a decade.

Citizens Assisting Police in Apex (CAPA) is a self-governing nonprofit organization that has grown from a handful to more than 50 active members, volunteers ranging in age from twenty-something to eighty-ish. They are not police officers. They are teachers, students, lawyers, artists, pilots, scientists, I/T professionals, and some really good cooks.

"There is no way for me to describe how much work they do for us. They help us immensely!" praises Apex Police Department Officer Kris Shuart, Community Policing and CAPA Adviser. CAPA's value and visibility have grown from placing traffic cones to assisting with police department programs and Apex festivals throughout the year.

CAPA President Richard Brooks has nurtured the evolution of the group since he completed the Citizens Police Academy course in 2010. "When I joined," Brooks says, "it was relatively loose-knit, and it's hard to get things done if you don't have some organization." The members incorporated in 2012 as a nonprofit and since then, Brooks and the CAPA team have found dozens of ways to free up our officers so they can get back to policing.



CAPA in Action

One of the group's most popular and successful programs has been ID cards for children and senior citizens. Parents bring their child to a CAPA volunteer to be photographed and fingerprinted. Pertinent information is collected and the volunteer prints and laminates an ID card. Cards for seniors identify medical conditions and daily-use medications. "A diabetic crisis looks a lot like being drunk," Shuart explains. "I can pull that card out and see that you need to be treated like a medical emergency." CAPA takes two computers, a printer, and a laminating machine to public events and places like community centers and assisted-living facilities, so there are more frequent opportunities to take advantage of this program.

All year long, CAPA volunteers are a regular presence at events sponsored by the Town of Apex and the Apex Police Department. At downtown festivals they direct traffic, reunite lost kids with frantic parents, and mingle with the crowd as extra eyes and ears for the police force. On Shred

"AS FAR AS VOLUNTEER GROUPS GO, I'VE NEVER SEEN ANOTHER ONE THAT DOES AS MANY THINGS AS YOU ALL DO."

Day they unload your boxes or bags of documents.

At Apex Night Out they make IDs, run children's games, and monitor a "rehab" tent where officers and volunteers can get drinks or snacks. At the Western Wake Crisis Ministry's Turkey Giveaway they load cars with food donations. For Christmas-with-a-Cop, the officers take kids shopping and CAPA assists at checkout by purchasing and organizing the gifts, then wrapping and sorting them for the officers to deliver. On Christmas Day, they supply a home-cooked feast. Shuart says, "They bring it in at about lunchtime to get the day shift and they come back that night to make sure it's reheated—bringing another ham and more pies." And the list goes on.

On the topic of food, the Apex Police Department draws a law enforcement crowd at their DUI checkpoints. As Brooks suspects, "I think they get cops from other municipalities because [we feed them]." Shuart enthusiastically confirms that suspicion, saying, "There's no other group that will feed you like CAPA will feed you! I'm talking ribs, chili, sodas, waters. Cookies, cakes, brownies—

everything handmade—coffee, hot chocolate...Guys come from all over the county to work our checkpoints because of how awesome our CAPA team is!

Joining CAPA

To be on the CAPA team, you must be a legal U.S. resident, pass a background check, and successfully complete the Citizens Police Academy (CPA). The Apex Police Department offers the CPA training for free, once a year in the fall, and the program typically consists of one 3-hour session per week for 8 to 10 weeks.

Last year's course covered topics such as: Criminal law, criminal investigations, arrest procedures, traffic stops, the use of force, department communications, police vehicles, and the popular K9 Unit with Rocky and his partner. At the end of the Academy, graduates are eligible to join CAPA, although there is no obligation to do so. New members receive an orientation, review the Police Department manual and CAPA by-laws, and agree to attend at least half of the scheduled

CAPA: Suburban Living Article Cont'd

monthly meetings and complete a minimum number of volunteer hours.

As a self-sustaining organization, fundraising is part of being a CAPA member. "We've had great community support and several groups have been very generous," Brooks says. "The free Child and Senior ID programs have been a huge success and we were able to raise money and buy a second computer for [making IDs]." Another profitable effort was the K9 Hero program. The group capitalized on K9 Officer Rocky's popularity and had stuffed animals made that looked just like him. "We did it very professionally; we had a business plan set up and a brochure that explained the program," Brook says. "[The ID] programs, support from companies and individuals, and selling 500 Rocky dolls—it was huge!" Shuart adds, "[CAPA] made a lot of money that was earmarked for Christmas-with-a-Cop. They were able to cover pretty much the entire cost of [that event]."

"Humanizing the Badge"

Outside of assisting at events around Apex, CAPA has one particularly important job. CAPA members are partners with the Apex Police Department. They provide transparency between the Department and Apex residents. As Shuart puts it, "It's a way to get interaction so people will understand what it is we do every day. We're not just out there writing speeding

tickets; we're not just taking people to jail. You've heard the phrase 'humanizing the badge?' It's what's behind the badge as a person. Volunteer groups can get the word out that we're regular people. [CAPA members] are huge advocates for us."

Brooks encourages CAPA members to set an example by interacting with the officers they come in contact with around Apex. He wants people to get to know our police force and learn from them. It's a mutually beneficial relationship. He adds, "The Chief comes on occasion to talk to the group and he never leaves without saying how much we're appreciated. He says, 'As far as volunteer groups go, I've never seen another one that does as many things as you all do.'"

Consider joining your neighbors who are "serving those who serve." If you see yourself as a citizen assisting police in Apex and have questions about the program or training, or you would like to offer a contribution to the CAPA team, you can email ncapexcapa@bellsouth.net or contact the Apex Police Department adviser at cpo@apexnc.org. ■

The next Apex Police Department Citizens Academy begins in September. If you know someone that may be interested, contact the APD. Email: cpo@apexnc.org for more info!



Officer Rocky



Officer Zeus



Medical ID's

CAPA also visits Senior Centers in the area, such as Cambridge or Spring Arbor, to create Medical ID's for seniors that may have serious medical conditions.

Both Child and Medical ID's are free of charge. Citizens may also schedule to have an ID made at the Apex Police Department. Call 919-362-8661 to make an appointment.

K-9 Heroes: Rocky and Zeus

K-9 Heroes Campaign

Apex Police Department has two K-9 officers that are helping keep our community safe; Rocky and Zeus. Stuffed animals made in their likeness are available for purchase at \$15 each. Proceeds from these purchases go to the Shop with a Cop program to provide gifts for children with less fortunate circumstances. You can purchase a K-9 Hero at All Booked Up, Apex Gallery & Custom Frames, A&K Food Marts, BB&T Beaver Creek, State Employees Credit Union, and Vision Martial Arts.

Child ID's

At many Apex town events, APD/CAPA offer free Child and Medical ID's.

Child ID's are made for children 1-12 years of age.

Approximately 60+ Child ID's were made at this year's PeakFest event. A child ID consists of a photo and a fingerprint will be taken of the child and the child's information will be given in a print out for the parent with an ID of their child. The personal information of each child is not saved on the computer, and is deleted.

Child ID's are also available and free of charge at the Apex Police Department, please call the non-emergency phone number, 919-362-8661 to arrange a day time appointment.