



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

City of College Place Police Department Revision
April 2024



Chief Troy Tomaras

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Message from the Chief

Thank you for taking time to review the 2023 College Place Police Department (CPPD) annual report. Each year the report is published to provide insight into operations and events related to policing within the community of College Place. This report measures our success while providing analytics for areas needing improvement.

2023 was another year of growth for the City of College Place and the CPPD. As we continue to grow, our department will continue to plan for additional officers. In 2023, the CPPD hired two new officers. Austin Dennis is a military veteran who grew up nearby in Pendleton Oregon and was a lateral officer from Virginia. Officer George Bennett is well known to our community, having served as a reserve officer for 18 years before accepting a full-time peace officer position. We are grateful to have both officers join our ranks.

Challenges for our community in 2023 were eluding vehicles, fentanyl, and motor vehicle thefts. All three of these have remained consistent challenges over the last two years for our community and across the State of Washington. However, I am happy to report that domestic violence, shoplifting, and burglaries have all seen a reduction within our community for 2023.

The CPPD continues to partner with crisis and community caretakers to support those within our community who struggle with mental health. Jail alternatives such as diversion programs for those struggling with mental health and chemical dependency have continued to be utilized. The CPPD continues to collaborate with our criminal justice system to prioritize community safety.

Our city leadership under Mayor Norma Hernandez and City Administrator Mike Rizzitiello continue to be strong and supportive. Both are actively engaged with what is happening within our police department and community. We also enjoy strong support from our City Council for appropriate funding to ensure we maintain quality officers. This includes providing the very best training and equipment to better serve our community.

We continue to foster public trust through professional contacts, unbiased enforcement, strong leadership, and accountability. The CPPD continues to deploy body worn cameras and remains a fully accredited law enforcement agency through the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC).

Sincerely,



Troy Tomaras
Chief of Police
College Place Police Department



MISSION

The College Place Police department embraces the Philosophy of community oriented policing and strives to enhance the quality of life and safety of our citizens with the highest degree of ethical behavior, fairness and professional conduct.

VISION

Our vision is to ensure the City of College Place is a safe place to live, work and do business through the delivery of quality law enforcement services.

VALUES

Every member of the College Place Police Department is part of a team who inculcates courage, commitment, community and character in their daily operations through open and honest cooperation, service, respect and diversity.

Courage – Moral and ethical desire to act in the face of danger or adversity.

Commitment – Dedication to the department, professional policing and those we serve.

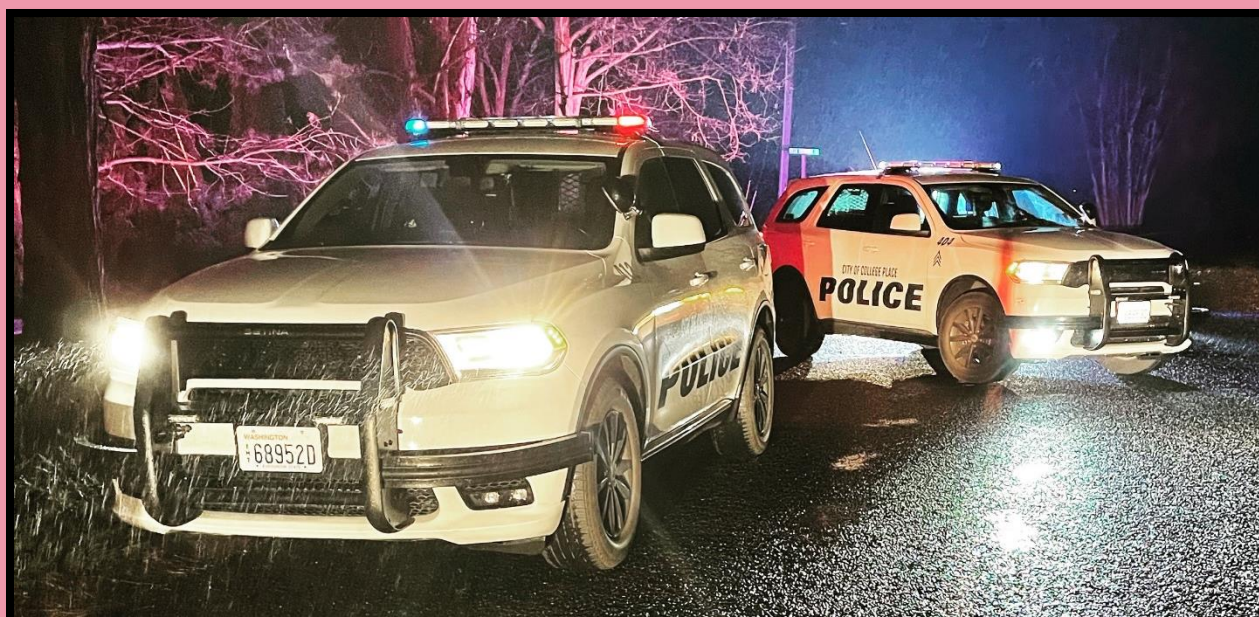
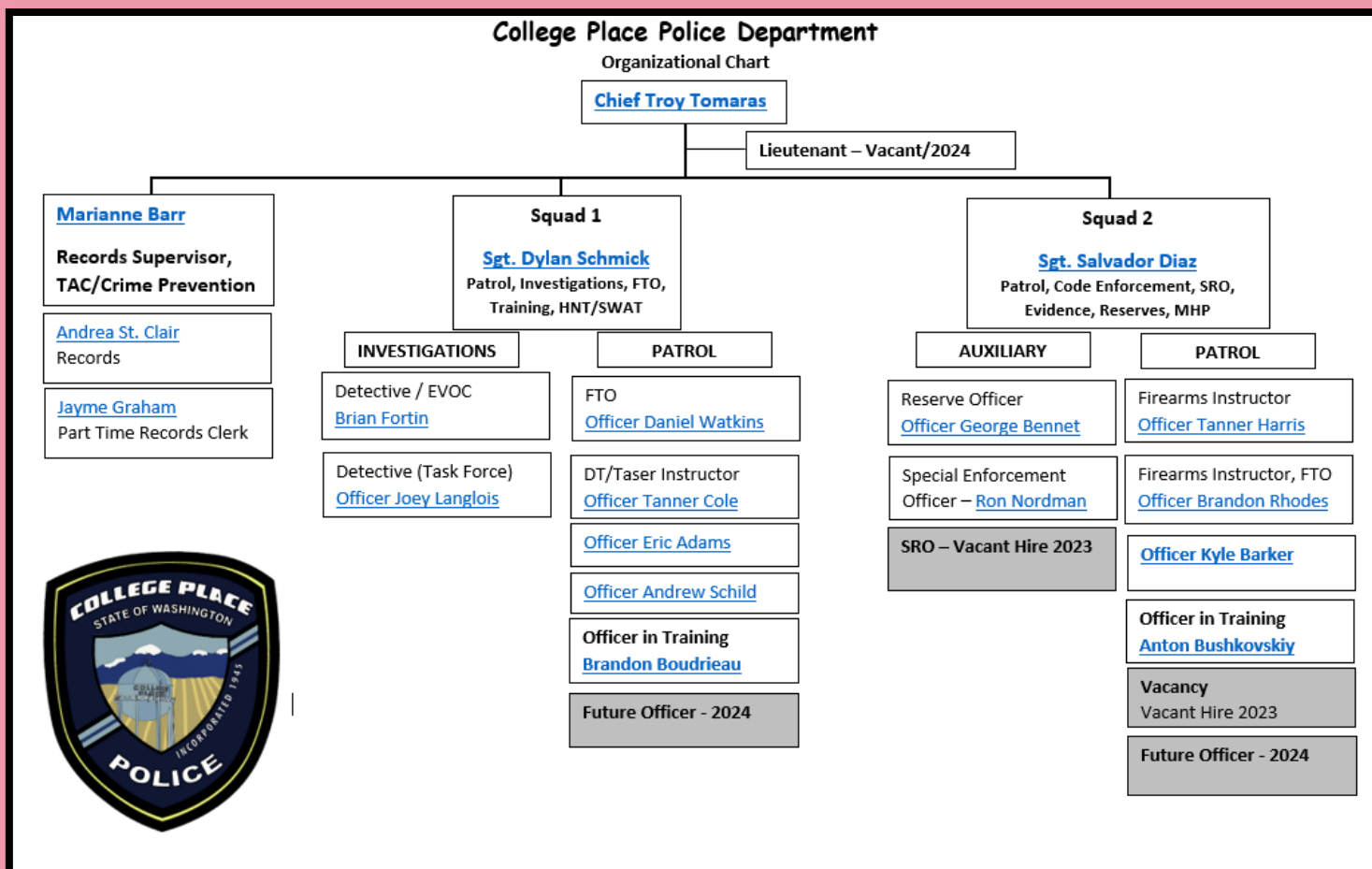
Community – Respecting and protecting individual rights while fostering relationships with whom we are called to serve.

Character – Performing with integrity while demonstrating strength to uphold and instill pride, honor and a call to public service.

GOALS

1. Reduce crime and improve traffic safety within our community.
2. Provide quality services and innovative policing strategies delivered through excellent customer service.
3. Provide leadership and resources to attract, retain and foster a safe, ethical, innovative, knowledgeable, and diverse workforce.
4. Work collaboratively with our stakeholders to improve the quality of life within our city.

Organizational Chart



New Hires

The CPPD welcomes the addition of two new officers in 2023. Officer Austin Dennis is a military veteran who grew up nearby in Pendleton, Oregon and was a lateral officer from Virginia. Officer George Bennett is well known to our community, having served as a reserve officer for 18 years while employed by Walla Walla University (WWU). George retired from WWU and accepted a full-time peace officer position. We are grateful to have them both serving within the CPPD.

Officer Austin Dennis



Officer George Bennett



SUPPORT SERVICES

Our friendly support services staff is available Monday through Friday during business hours to assist with concealed weapons permits, fingerprinting, special events applications, dog licenses, permits, disclosure requests, property, neighborhood watch and crime prevention.

Our team can help file a report or simply answer questions. Our support staff also assists with records management, billing, report merging and processing. Focused on providing the very best customer service, our support services team is essential to our daily operations.



**Records Supervisor
M. Barr**



**Records Clerk
A. St. Clair**



**Records Clerk
J. Graham**

Records statistics at a glance:

Year	2022	2023	% of change
Number of fingerprints processed	283	268	-5.30%
Number of CPL Permits processed	85	130	52.94%
Public Disclosures Processed	164	215	31.10%
BWC Disclosures Processed	10	6	-40.00%
Dog licenses sold	156	131	-16.03%

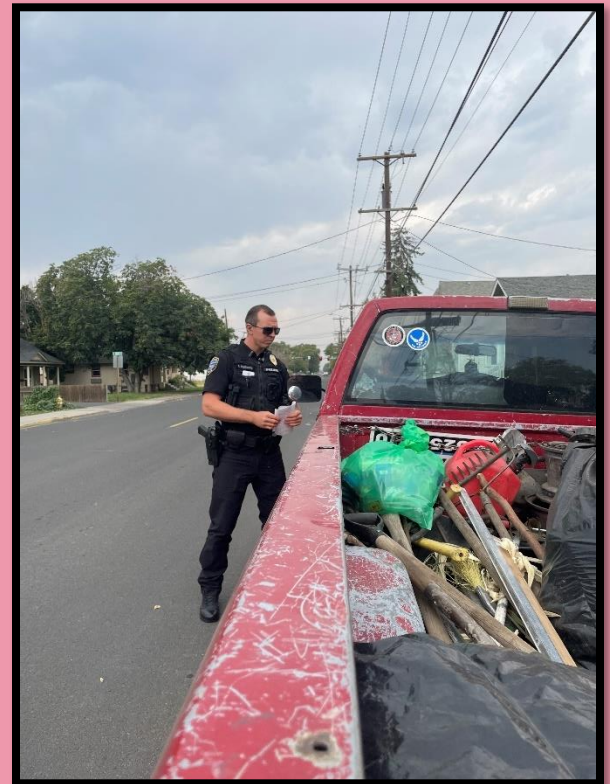
Note: BWC = Body Worn Camera

PATROL

Our patrol section provides 24-hour coverage for the City of College Place. Patrol officers respond to general calls for service, crime prevention and traffic safety enforcement. During non-assigned time, officers work to accomplish agency goals in support of our Operations Plan.

Patrol Statistics at a glance:

Year	2022	2023	% of Change
Arrests	333	313	-6.01%
Cases	614	610	-0.65%
Incidents	11,011	12,255	11.30%
Tickets	559	537	-3.94%
Traffic Stops	2,032	2,471	21.60%



Sgt. S. Diaz



Sgt. D. Schmick

INVESTIGATIONS

The College Place Police Department has two detectives who handle complex cases, which require special training, resources and/or time to solve crimes. Typically, our detectives investigate felony cases which if proven, could result in a prison sentence. Additional duties include assisting patrol with follow-up, interviews, evidence collection, latent fingerprint and photographs.



Special Investigations Statistics at a glance:

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Taken	42	52	41	57	61
Cases Cleared	27	49	30	42	23
Agency Assists	DNT	DNT	DNT	DNT	202
Search Warrants	DNT	DNT	DNT	DNT	15

Task Force Investigations – Statistics at a glance:

CPPD Taskforce Cases	2022	2023
Primary Investigation	5	8
Assists	14	18
City of College Place Cases	4	5



Detective B. Fortin
Special Investigations



Detective J. Langlois
Task Force

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Our School Resource Officer position was filled in 2023 following a year of absence due to staffing challenges in 2022. We are grateful for the partnership with the College Place School District and love investing in our youth.

Our SRO's duties include mentoring and working with students, acting as liaison between school, parents and police department, providing training to students and staff on security, anti-bullying, social media dangers, traffic safety, law and justice. The SRO also assists with truancy, checking on the health and welfare of students and the investigation and deterrence of criminal activity.

SRO Statistics at a glance:	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	% of change
Incidents	36	32	73	Vacant	63	96.88%
Criminal Investigations	18	9	22	NA	2	-350.00%
CPS Referrals	1	2	2	NA	0	-100.00%
JV Charges Filed	1	0	14	NA	3	-78.57%
Infractions/Citations/Warn	NA	NA	NA	NA	6	0.00%
Training Provided	21	16.75	20	NA	8.5	-49.25%



SRO Andrew Schild

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT OFFICER



The Special Enforcement Officer (S.E.O.) is a limited commission position which focuses on Code Enforcement, Animal Control and Parking violations. This position also serves as the department evidence and property custodian. S.E.O. The majority of the S.E.O. calls gain compliance through education and awareness.

S.E.O. R. Nordman

SEO Activity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	% of change
Code Enforcement Inv.	240	86	126	86	73	-15.12%
Animal Calls	111	129	112	136	97	-28.68%
Parking Violations	172	214	164	88	104	18.18%

Code enforcement generally involves the removal of junk, junk vehicles and nuisances from property. Junk and neglected property reduces property value which has a negative impact on our neighbors, businesses, and the entire community. This can create health issues, attract crime, and promote neighborhood disputes.

Parking and abandoned vehicles continue to challenge our community's limited parking availability. It is our goal to work with residents to remove unlicensed or non-working vehicles in an effort to promote resilient communities.

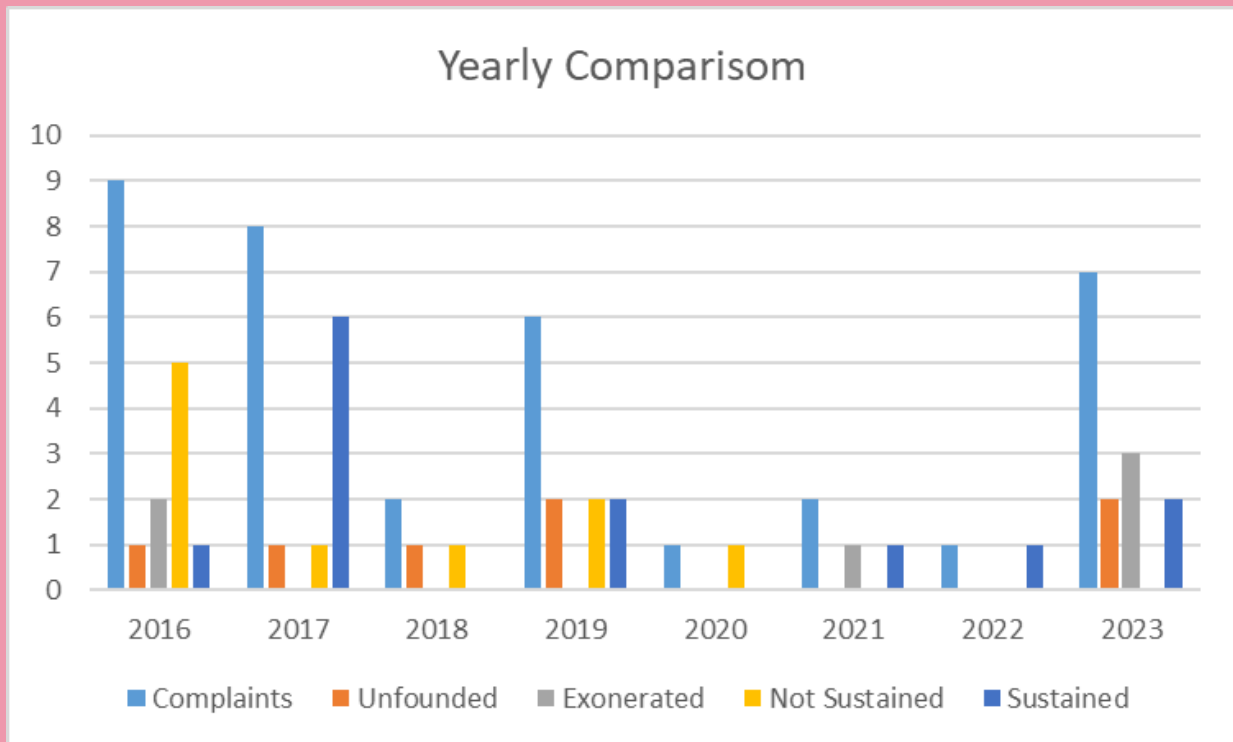


We are a pet friendly city. **Animal control** involves the response to calls involving domestic animals. This generally involves loose animals, feral or stray cats, aggressive and/or barking dogs.



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The College Place Police Department inculcates courage, commitment, community and character in their daily operations through open and honest cooperation, service, respect and diversity. We strive to foster public trust through professional, unbiased policing. When an allegation of misconduct or violation of policy against one of our employees occurs, we conduct a thorough investigation while protecting and respecting the rights of everyone involved.



Complaints include violation(s) of policy such as courtesy, lost equipment or vehicle operation.

Unfounded – When the investigation discloses that, the alleged acts did not occur or did not involve department members.

Exonerated – When the investigation discloses that the alleged act occurred but that the act was justified, lawful and/or proper.

Not sustained – When the investigation discloses that there is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the member.

Sustained – When the investigation discloses sufficient evidence to establish that the act occurred and that it constituted a violation of policy or misconduct.

Note: 2023 - CPPD had two sustained vehicle incidents (Backing vehicle into object incidents).

CRIME & TRAFFIC STATISTICS

Category	2021	2022	2021-2022 % of change	2023	2022 - 2023 % of change	3-year average	21 - 23 % of change
Burglaries	36	38	5.56%	12	-68.42%	28.69	-66.67%
Thefts	108	193	78.70%	105	-45.60%	135.60	-2.78%
Collisions	74	69	-6.76%	63	-8.70%	68.64	-14.86%
DUI	14	20	42.86%	17	-15.00%	17.14	21.43%
Narcotics Arrests	4	1	-75.00%	13	1200.00%	5.75	225.00%
Traffic Stops	2,026	2,032	0.30%	2,471	21.60%	2176.33	21.96%
Warrant Apprehension	319	352	10.34%	306	-13.07%	325.70	-4.08%
Motor Vehicle Thefts	33	15	-54.55%	18	20.00%	21.82	-45.45%
Vehicle Prowls	31	19	-38.71%	3	-84.21%	17.54	-90.32%
Shoplifting	157	189	20.38%	64	-66.14%	136.73	-59.24%
Domestic Violence	18	23	27.78%	15	-34.78%	18.76	-16.67%
Other Assaults	12	6	-50.00%	3	-50.00%	6.83	-75.00%

Pursuits

CPPD Pursuit Tracking by year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Number of pursuits	2	2	1	2	1	19	10	37
Authorized	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	10
Unauthorized	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IA Investigation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Following the 2021 passage of HB 1054 (RCW 10.116.060) pursuits have increased within our community and across the state of Washington. Under the current law, officers must terminate any eluding unless the suspect has committed a violent offense or was suspected of impaired driving.

NOTE: Law will revert to allow pursuits to return on June 6, 2024

2023 SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The CPPD celebrated “Chief for a Day” with Chief Melanie.
- The CPPD Clerk, A. St. Clair received the city employee of the quarter award.
- CPPD Officer Brandon Rhodes received the Walla Walla Chambers of Commerce “Nick Henzel” award for being selected the top Walla Walla Valley Officer of the year.
- Officer Rhodes was also recognized as the Blue Mnt. Lodge officer of the year.
- The CPPD hired two new officers in 2023. Officer G. Bennett and Officer Austin Dennis
- Officer G. Bennett Graduated from BLEA and was sworn in as new officer.
- Officer Austin Dennis graduated from the Lateral Officer Academy and sworn in as new officer.
- The CPPD hosted Trunk or Treat.
- Officer D. Watkins received outstanding achievement award for DUI enforcement.
- The CPPD developed and implemented a 2023 Operations Plan
- The CPPD submitted a traffic stop study and Bias Report. We are proud to report no indicators of bias or profiling by our officers through traffic enforcement.
- The CPPD collaborated with the Walla Walla Police Department and the Walla Walla County Sheriff’s office to implement a regional training plan for 2023.
- The CPPD hosted a WWU student for her student practicum.
- Our SEO position continues to partner and promote positive improvements within our community through Code Enforcement, Animal Control and parking enforcement.
- The CPPD worked with the Walla Walla Traffic Safety Task Force to conduct traffic safety events within the city to improve the safety of our roadways.
- CPPD helped sponsor “Shop with a Cop” families to help provide during the holidays.
- Two prescription drug take-back events.
- Worked closely with College Place Schools to improve safety
- CPPD re-established the School Resource Officer position – Officer A. Schild
- Officers participated and assisted with the City Block party in partnership with WWU.
- Officers participated and assisted the City with Freedom Festival.
- CPPD collaborated with city leadership and Diversity and Inclusion Board.
- CPPD sold old property through Propertyroom.com.
- CPPD has increased communication through social media (Instagram & Facebook).
- CPPD participated in the Walla Walla Valley National Night Out.
- CPPD participated in the “light up the Ave” holiday parade through the city.
- CPPD has added “Now you know” informational videos.
- CPPD partnered with Walla Walla Area Crime watch to conduct graffiti abatement throughout city.

EVENTS/PHOTOS

National Night Out & Chief for a Day



Walla Walla Chambers Officer of the year and the Blue Mountain Lodge Officer of the year – CPPD Officer Brandon Rhodes (photo left). Group photo right with other award recipients.



Photo below: Detective Langlois is being taught how to drive a tractor.



Sgt. Diaz and Chief Tomaras taming the wild horses at the “Cop on Top” event for Special Olympics.



Swearing in ceremony at City Council Meeting. Officer(s): G. Bennett and A. Dennis



Quarterly Employee Award for City – Officer Kyle Barker

Top DUI officer – Daniel Watkins



Officer Schild handing out stickers at the annual Freedom Festival.



Officers celebrating our local farmers



Clerks M. Barr & A. St. Claire handing out stickers during National Night Out event.



CPPD Clerks having fun – Go Barbie!



CPPD Team handing out candy during Fall Festival



Photo left: Sgt. Diaz and Officer Barker during annual “Shop with a Cop” event. Photo below right: HR Manager S. Doering providing CPPD staff with some training.

