



Professionalism ★ Respect ★ Integrity ★ Dedication ★ Excellence

# Sequim Police Department

## 2018 Annual Report



**Sheri Crain**  
Chief of Police

[www.sequimwa.gov/111/Police](http://www.sequimwa.gov/111/Police)



### Department Mission

To partner with our community in preserving the peace and reducing the incidence of crime for everyone who lives, works, and visits in our city.

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## **Professionalism**

*We will provide the highest quality service by applying our skills, knowledge, and abilities for the benefit of the community.*

## **Respect**

*We are committed to fair and impartial service. We will ensure that everyone is treated with equality, respect, and compassion.*

## **Integrity**

*We will maintain the highest standards of honesty and ethical conduct.*

## **Dedication**

*We are committed to the relentless pursuit of justice.*

## **Excellence**

*We lead by example and provide the highest level of service utilizing education, training, and technology.*

# Message from Chief of Police *Sheri Crain*



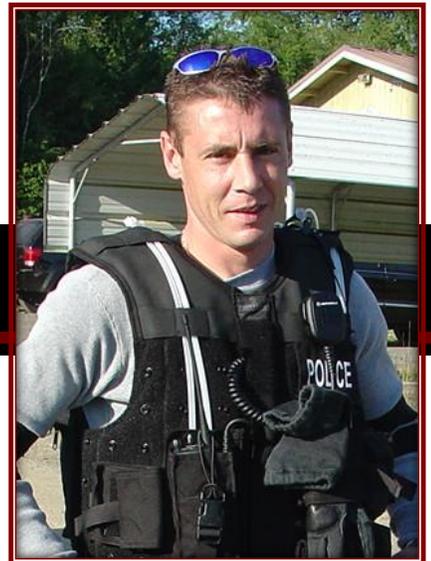
October 18, 2018 - Healthy Families 5K/10K

They say time flies. 2018 brought that home with some significant personnel changes. First, we said a retirement goodbye to Victoria, our Executive Assistant to the Chief from 2010 to 2018. Later in the year, we said another retirement goodbye to Officer Cory Hall. Cory's impact and imprint on our Department and community is hard to quantify but I can tell you he's been a big part of our heart and soul since 1991 when he came on as a volunteer Reserve Police Officer. We wish him well with his future plans.

The Department also expanded in Support Services staffing, adding Christine Elam as a newly created position to our Records Specialist team. Tiffany Banning was hired on as our Executive Administrative Assistant, filling Victoria's position. Officer Jeff Thaxton and Officer Carolee Edwards joined our team, filling two vacant Police Officer positions. We are lucky to bring on these experienced Officers with an abundance of life experience, talents, and skills that they can bring to our police family. As you can imagine, for a small agency this has been a lot of movement in personnel. We are thankful to all of those that have left and are happy to welcome our new staff members that are excited to live and work here in our wonderful community.

We hope you enjoy reading this year's annual report that shares some of 2018's highlights and our primary crime statistics.

Sheri Crain - Chief of Police  
City of Sequim



## Farewell Officer Hall

Cory Hall joined the Sequim Police Department as a Reserve Officer in 1990 and served in that capacity until 1999 when he was hired as a full-time Officer.

Cory served many roles during his tenure with the department including: Detective, Quartermaster, hostage negotiator, and as an arson investigator. He was the department's longest tenured Field Training Officer and is responsible for having trained nearly half of the agency's current roster of officers.

In 1991, as a reserve officer, Cory made over 100 DUI arrests which was unprecedented at the time and still has not been repeated by any Officer or Deputy on the peninsula. For this achievement, Cory was formally recognized by the Washington State Patrol and was also named the Sequim Police Department's first "Officer of the Year". Cory would also be named as the 2011 recipient, becoming only the second officer on the department to have won the award on more than one occasion.

Cory was passionate about helping citizens and his co-workers alike and was awarded the department's "Partner Award" selected by his peers an unmatched six times during his career.

# Welcome Officer Thaxton



Officer Jeff Thaxton began working with the Sequim Police Department in April 2018 as an Officer with the additional role of designated marksman. His previous law enforcement experience includes the City of Port Angeles Police Department from October 2015 through April 2018 where he was assigned to patrol with duties including shift supervisor authority, being a member of the scoped rifle team, field training officer, and less lethal operator. From November 2012 through August 2015, he was an Officer for the City of Midlothian, TX where his assignments included detective division and patrol.

In addition to his prior assignments, Officer Thaxton has completed Advanced and Basic Sniper schools which helped him develop the designated marksmen programs for both the Sequim and Port Angeles Police Departments.

Prior to a career in law enforcement, Thaxton was self-employed since the age of 23, owning and running Victory Gym & Fitness Inc and later, Thaxton Construction Inc. and served as president of Certified Master Builders Corp. He also enjoyed being the lead vocalist and guitarist for the hard rock bands THAXTON (2005-2010) and MARS HILL (1994-1998). Thaxton received radio airplay on the major stations in Dallas, TX and various other stations including Greece and Italy. Mars Hill had a record distribution contract with CD's in music stores throughout Texas.



# Welcome Officer Edwards

Officer Carolee Edwards joined our team in December. Originally from New Mexico, she joined the Marine Corps right after high school. Edwards lived in Japan for seven years, as part of her military service and after active duty, and has since lived in 9 different states. Prior to a career in law enforcement, she worked as an English as a Second Language teacher and an interpreter.

In 2008, Edwards returned to New Mexico and began working as a Police Officer in her hometown of Portales, NM. Edwards continued working in law enforcement in New Mexico for several years, despite her family dynamic changing and being faced with raising four kids as a single mother. Edwards also worked for the State of New Mexico Children Youth and Families Department Juvenile Justice Services as a juvenile corrections officer for a short time. In 2015, Edwards was remarried to her long-time friend who was a NM State Police Officer. As their careers progressed, so did their assignments and Departments.

Edwards moved to Washington in 2017 and worked for the Kingston Boys and Girls Club while looking to return to law enforcement. Edwards has certifications as a licensed Car Seat Safety Technician, General Instructor, Radar/Lidar instructor, and Field Training Officer. She is also the department's first and only certified Drug Recognition Expert. In her spare time, Edwards is a dance fitness instructor, teaching part time at the YMCA in Sequim, and instructs youth shooting sports archery and shotgun.

## Welcome Christine Elam

Christine Elam began working with the department in April as a Police Specialist. Christine came to us with over 12 years of administrative support and finance experience.

After taking a leave of absence for a few years, to support family members in need of medical assistance while her husband was occupied with military commitments, Christine is happy to have settled back in Sequim and is an energetic and professional addition to our support team.



## Welcome Tiffany Banning

Tiffany Banning moved with her family to Port Angeles from Las Vegas, NV on July 4, 2018 and began working for the department shortly thereafter. She has a B.S. in Business Administration with a Minor in Business Law, a M.Ed. in Elementary Education, and Juris Doctorate. Prior to relocating, Tiffany worked in the legal profession for approximately 14 years, including working for Judges of the Clark County District Court in both civil and criminal departments.

As the new Confidential Executive Administrative Assistant to the Chief, she is responsible for providing administrative support to the entire Department including preparing the Annual Report, Managing the VIPS program and Department website, and performing a myriad of other tasks.



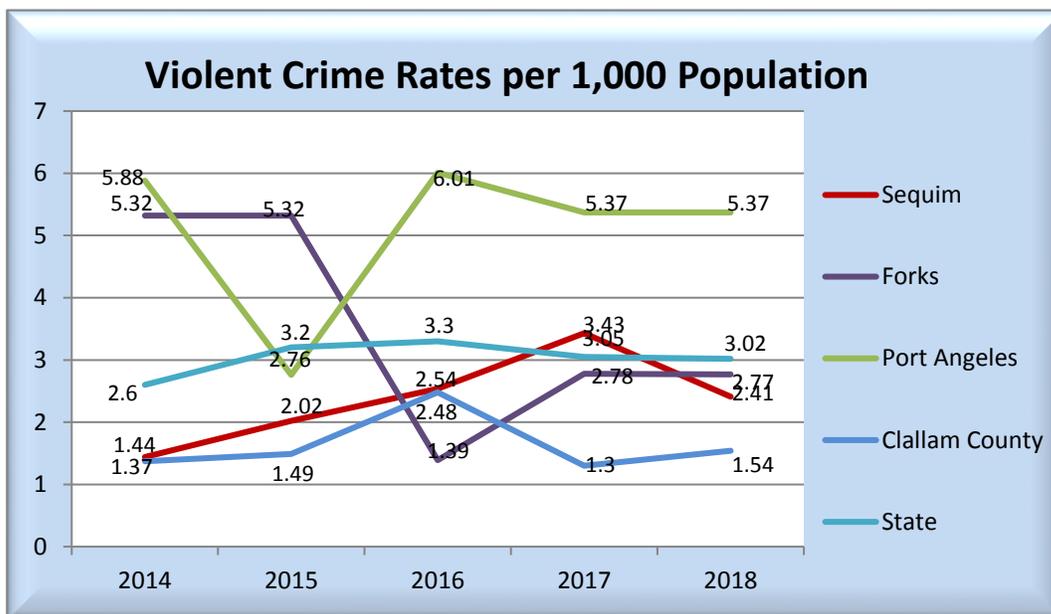
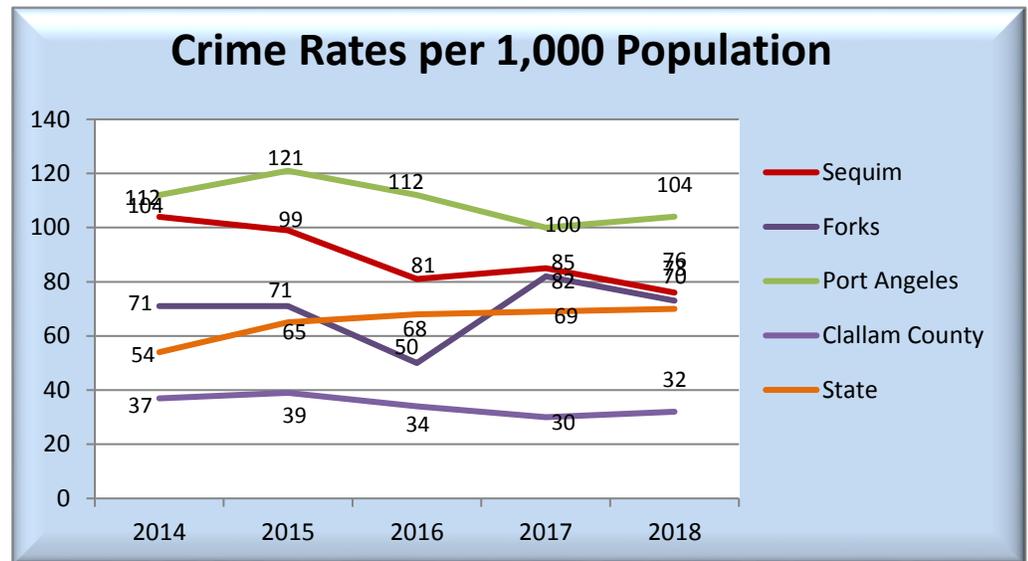
## Farewell Victoria Ormand

Victoria Ormand began working with the department in September 2009 as the Administrative Assistant to the Chief. She served under three separate commands and oversaw several departmental projects and programs, such as the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS). Victoria had moved here from San Diego, CA with a long Public Works career there. She enjoyed getting to know public service from the law enforcement perspective and took particular pride in our VIPS program which grew steadily under her watchful eye.

Victoria retired from the department in May 2018. Although no longer employed by the Department, she will always be a member of Sequim Police Department family.

# Crime Rates & Officer Activity

Sequim's crime rate continues its downward trend despite the increase in population, resulting in an overall greater percentage of decreased crime.



Violent crime rates are low and continue to drop from 2017. A few violent crime incidents impacted our overall crime rate per thousand.

Although the statistics measured against those neighboring agencies do not provide an apple to apple comparison, they are intended to give some local perspective to the surrounding area.

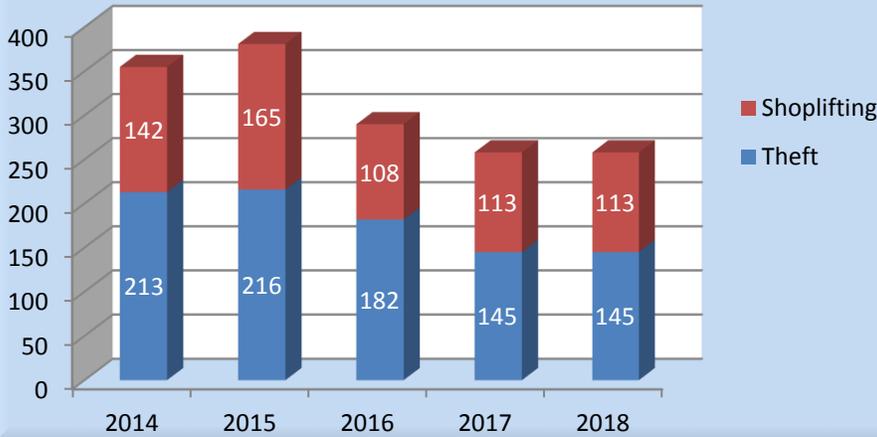
Most categories tracked through national crime statistics went down. Of note, the burglary number of 29 is unusually low. That number might be partially attributable to past arrests of serial burglars. Larceny numbers have been low the last several years with 2018 continuing that trend.

Property crimes are the vast majority of our crime load. We encourage residents and visitors to remove valuables from your vehicles overnight, lock your car doors, beware of scams, and to lock your homes. An ounce of prevention goes a long way.

Violent Crimes	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Murder	0	0	1	0	0
Rape	0	1	5	5	7
Aggravated Assault	5	7	10	19	9
Simple Assault	45	61	68	54	57
Robbery	3	0	2	1	2
Burglary	61	50	32	40	29
Larceny	302	311	230	252	265
Motor Vehicle Theft	9	15	10	12	8
Forgery	15	19	19	18	11
Fraud	7	9	10	13	8
Stolen Property Offenses	8	16	14	11	11
Drug/Narcotic Offenses	49	53	44	49	40

# Crime Rates & Officer Activity – Cont.

## Annual Theft Cases in Sequim



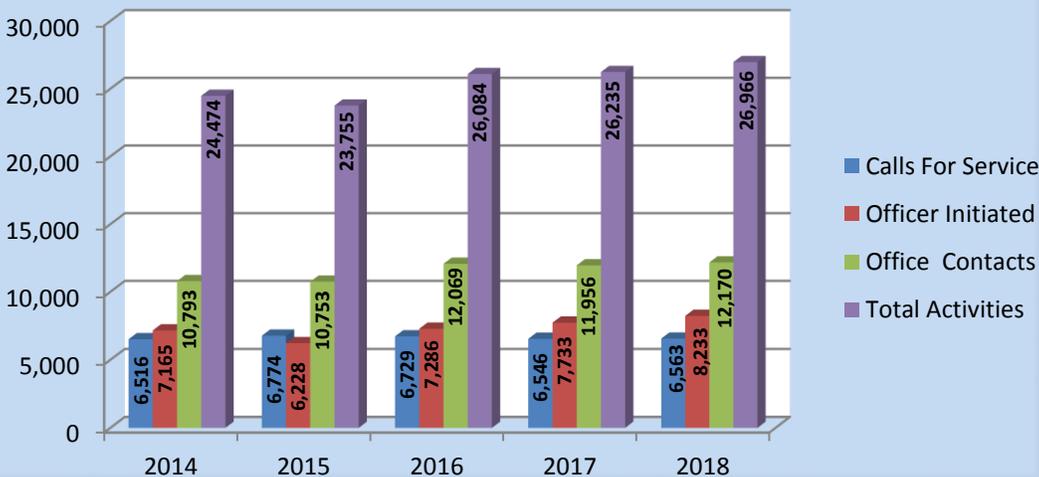
Shoplifting and theft cases continue to be of smaller numbers than years past. 2018 is year three of this trend.

We appreciate efforts made by citizens to reduce their likelihood of victimization. We also appreciate efforts made by businesses to reduce theft from their stores.

Officer Activities reflect responses to citizen calls for service, but the categories also include self-initiated activity numbers generated by individual Officers. This is one area where we can demonstrate our proactivity in our community. It is likely that proactive, self-initiated activity contributes to the reduction in crime numbers in some categories.

Officer Activities	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Welfare Checks: people	314	328	456	522	522
Welfare Checks: 911 hang-ups	798	787	655	613	730
Alarms	281	331	293	339	337
Suspicious Person/Circumstance/Vehicles	599	616	597	647	698
Drug Arrests	89	87	79	73	56
Parking Complaints	68	69	67	99	119
Noise Complaints	80	92	65	102	87
Disturbances	235	259	300	309	340
Building Checks	1,293	803	1,239	961	1315
DV - Physical/ Arrest Made	37	53	42	59	53

## Workload Indicators

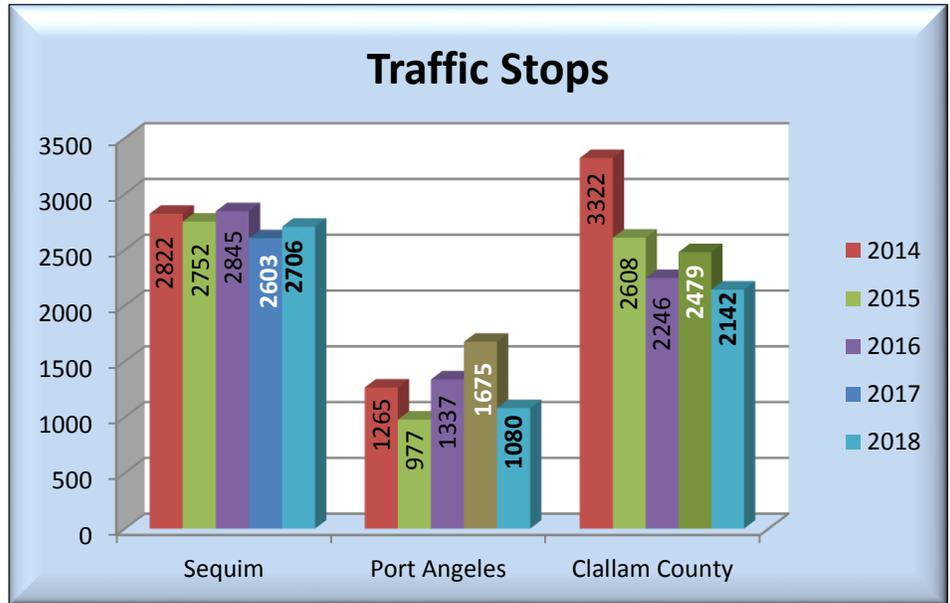


In addition to an increase in activity generated by Officers, the growing trendline of office contacts was a key factor in the addition of a third Records Specialist to our front office staff. Our front office provides a host of services internally for our Officers and externally to citizens at the front counter or seeking assistance by phone.

# Traffic Enforcement

When not responding to calls for service, Sequim Police Officers work proactively to identify active crimes, including the enforcement of traffic laws.

The local comparisons also provide some perspective as to how much proactive traffic enforcement and education we commit to each year.



Traffic Offenses	Clallam County	Port Angeles	Sequim
Driving While License Suspended - 1st	2	5	1
Driving While License Suspended - 2nd	8	9	6
Driving While License Suspended - 3rd	145	88	111
Driving Without Interlock Device	11	10	6
DUI - Alcohol	46	61	13
DUI - Drugs	6	9	2
Hit & Run - Attended Prop. Damage	2	11	2
Hit & Run - Injury	2	3	0
Hit & Run - Unattended	1	26	3
No Valid Driver's License - 1st	7	10	2
Reckless Driving	6	9	3
<b>Total 2018 Offenses</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>149</b>

We perform a significant number of traffic stops yet have fewer numbers of many of these types of traffic offenses. This is the result of working diligently to address the offenses we do have in our community and using the rest of our time as an opportunity to address speed and other driving behaviors, whether with infractions or warnings, to educate and prevent collisions where possible.

Driving under the influence is a nationwide problem and one that Sequim is not immune to. However, because of our officers' proactivity and diligence to traffic enforcement, our arrest numbers are significantly fewer than that of neighboring agencies. This level of traffic enforcement serves as a strong deterrent intended to prevent crimes such as DUI.

Sequim PD will continue with an aggressive traffic enforcement campaign to further educate our citizens and reduce the incidence of intoxicant-related and speed collisions.



# Community Involvement & Volunteers



## Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total Annual Volunteer Hours	3,716	4,088	4,600	5,017	4,259
Vacation House Checks	1,455	1,419	2,453	3,046	3,343
Child Passenger Safety Seats Installed /Inspected	44	52	73	100	34
Project Lifesaver Clients	12	10	11	18	18

## Volunteers in Police Service

As the needs of our community members change, so do the assignments and activities our VIPS engage in

We hired 11 new volunteers in 2018 and had 6 retire from service. With the influx of new hires, we experienced a lull of time when many were in training and unable to perform the standard VIPS functions. Accordingly, overall hours were reduced. Although we had fewer active VIPS during that time, our amazing volunteers were still able to provide direct service to the citizens of our community through vacation house checks, child passenger safety seat inspection and installations, and supporting Project Lifesaver clients.

Additionally, the Sequim VIPS provided added security and support at a variety of City events including the annual Irrigation and Lavender Festivals, Sequim Prairie Nights Car Show, KSQV Dog Days, supporting the DEA Drug Take-Back day, and Downtown Trick-or-Treat extravaganza - to name a few.

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER

If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer in Police Service (VIPS) member please visit our website at

[www.sequimwa.gov/302/Volunteers-In-Police-Service-VIPS](http://www.sequimwa.gov/302/Volunteers-In-Police-Service-VIPS)



# Community Involvement & Volunteers – Cont.

## Service Fest

During the weeks of June 4<sup>th</sup> – June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the City of Sequim partnered in a neighborhood revitalization project with Habitat for Humanity and First Federal Bank.

This event was wildly successful in terms of neighborhood engagement, and the city has received a tremendous amount of press and prestige at the national level from other cities around the country.



This event would not have been nearly as successful without the direct contributions of Code Enforcement Officer, Lisa Hopper. Lisa spent tireless time prior to this event identifying blighted properties within the city, and then partnering with those property owners to sign up as part of Service Fest revitalization efforts.

During Service Fest Lisa continued her dedication and tireless work and several times during the event Lisa solved problems or used her extensive contacts in the community to find work arounds to continue moving projects forward.



## Special Olympics Torch Run

Sequim Police Department participated in the annual Special Olympics Torch Run on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

Each year, several officers participate in carrying, and passing, the torch throughout the Olympic Peninsula. All funds raised go to support the program; the money is dedicated to local Special Olympics teams the Orcas (Clallam County) and the Warriors (Jefferson County).

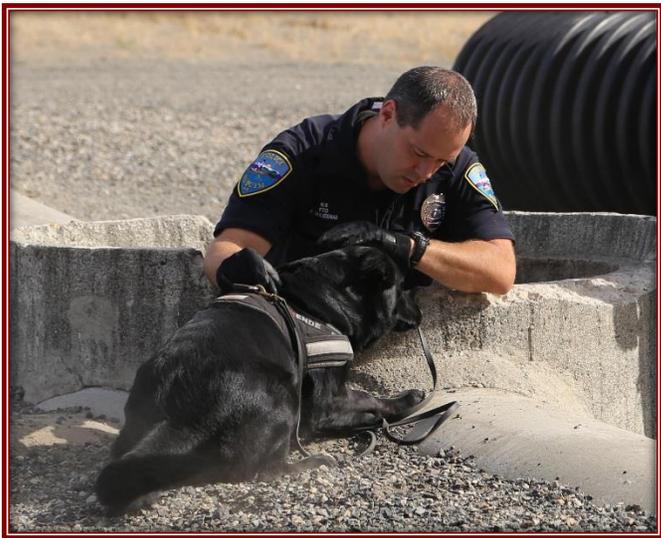
## Coffee With A Cop

Sequim Police Department participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Coffee With A Cop on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Chief Crain, Staff Sgt. Sean Madison, Sgt. Dave Campbell, and Officer Maris Larsen were in attendance to engage with community members, answer questions, and provide safety advice.



# Employee Advancement & Department Initiatives

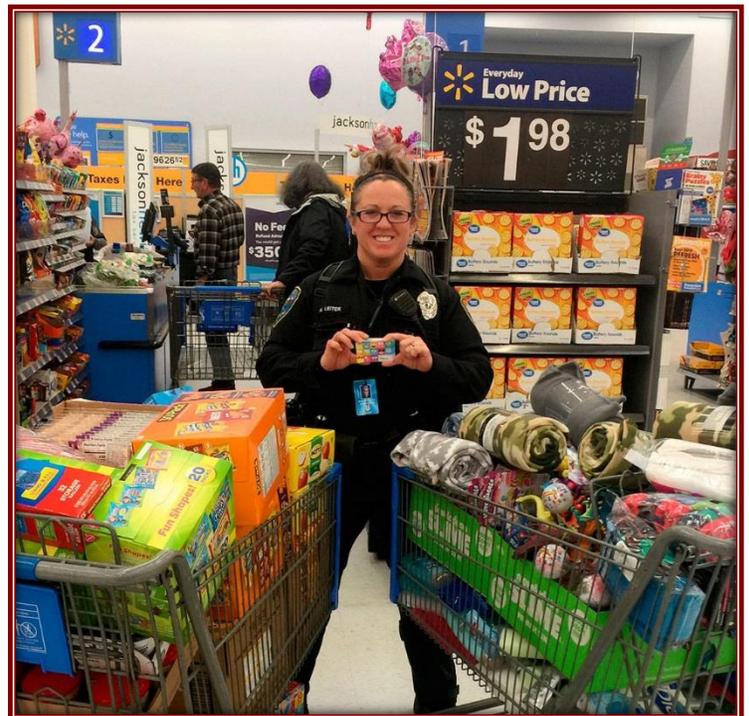


**Officer Paul Dailidenas** was selected to be the new Handler for K-9 Mamba. After more than 400 hours of state-mandated training, and passing the Washington State Police Canine Association's accreditation, the team is now working together to keep the citizens of Sequim safe.

Mamba, Sequim's fourth ever police dog, is trained to conduct human tracking and apprehension, building searches, evidence searches, and handler protection.

**Officer Kindryn Leiter** was selected to be the new School Resource Officer. Officer Leiter has worked for the Sequim Police Department since 2011 where she started as a volunteer Reserve Officer and later, in 2013, became a full-time Police Officer.

The SRO is a school-based law enforcement officer who works with parents, administrators, teachers, and school security to protect students, faculty and staff, and the schools they attend. Kindryn provides resources to staff, builds positive relationships with students, and develop strategies and conducts trainings to resolve problems that affect staff and students, thereby promoting a safe school environment and safe kids.



**Officer Rick Larsen** was selected to work as a Detective within the Sequim Police Department's Investigations Unit.

Rick joined the department in May of 2007 while still a member of the Washington State National Guard.

As a patrol officer, Rick was very proactive and was influential in several key drug investigations and arrests. His hard work and tenacity earned him the department's 2016 "Officer of the Year" award.

Rick will now take his expertise and savvy to the investigations unit where he will continue to work cases involving drugs, felonies, and crimes against persons.



# Employee Recognition

## EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

**Police Specialist Josh Rees** was unanimously voted by the supervisory staff of the Sequim Police Department to receive the agency's 2018 Employee of the Year Award. Specialist Rees helped develop methods by which property could be more easily transferred into the P&E system and implemented evidence handling procedures required by new statutes, case law, and accreditation standards. Audits and inspections of the P&E system had consistently passed without any finding of error. Most importantly, he continued to maintain a helpful, eager, and friendly attitude that personified teamwork.

## PARTNER OF THE YEAR

The Partner of the Year Award recognizes an individual who the Sequim Police Officers would most want to have as a "Partner on Patrol." It is designed to recognize those qualities that are most desired in any policing partner: dedication, technical competency, tactical competence, self-motivation, and trust. Voted the 2018 Sequim Police Department's Partner of the Year was **Paul Dailidenas**.

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION COMMENDATION

**Rick Larsen** was awarded the Criminal Investigation Commendation for superior attention to detail and outstanding investigative efforts. Detective Larsen's efforts facilitated the arrest of multiple wanted subjects, solved several crimes, aided in the recovery of stolen property, and lead to the interception of 60.9 grams of methamphetamine.

## TARGET ZERO TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARDS

The Target ZERO Program is a statewide program designed to eliminate fatal traffic crashes. The Sequim Police Department created this award to recognize officers who achieved a minimum of ten drunk driver arrests and/or initiate at least 300 vehicle stops over the course of a year. The following Sequim staff received the Traffic Safety Award for their outstanding efforts in 2017: **Officer Stephanie Benes, Officer Paul Dailidenas, Sergeant Mike Hill, Officer Kyle Resser, and Officer Jeff Thaxton**.

## LETTER OF RECOGNITION

**Maris Larsen and Kindryn Leiter** received Letters of Recognition for their assistance in resolving the January 1<sup>st</sup> Coastal Farm and Ranch store burglary. This case was a great example of multiple Sequim Police Officers working together, demonstrating a devotion to duty, and dedication to the performance of the departmental mission by investigating a significant case for several months until the persons responsible were identified, arrested, and charged.

**VIPS Bill Hegarty** received a Letter of Recognition for going above and beyond in his assistance with the Project Lifesaver program. Bill has been with the program since its inception and, in addition to assisting Officer Larsen with trainings and processing new applications, he took over as the VIPS Project Manager when Officer Larsen transitioned into a full-time position and has served in that capacity ever since.

## COMMENDATION

**Lisa Hopper** received a Commendation for her work during Service Fest. Prior to the event, Lisa identified blighted properties within the city and then worked tirelessly and solved problems or used her community contacts to find solutions to ensure the projects continued moving forward. Lisa's attitude and actions exemplify our Department Values of Professionalism, Dedication, and Excellence.

## LIFE SAVING AWARD

**Rick Larsen** received a Life Saving Award for evacuating three occupants from a house fire. The third victim, having had to have been dragged to safety, would have perished had Larsen not interceded.

**Randy Kellas** received a Life Saving Award for assisting a man who had gone into anaphylactic shock. Had Kellas failed to stop and summon aid, the man would not have survived.

# Organizational Chart



**CHIEF**  
Sheri Crain



**ASSISTANT TO COP**  
Tiffany Banning



**STAFF SERGEANT**  
Sean Madison



**SERGEANT**  
Dave Campbell



**SERGEANT**  
Mike Hill



**DET. SERGEANT**  
Darrell Nelson



**SERGEANT**  
John Southard



**RECORD SPECIALIST**  
Josh Rees



**OFFICER**  
Chris Wright



**OFFICER**  
Randy Kellas



**DETECTIVE**  
Rick Larsen



**OFFICER**  
Steph Benes



**RECORD SPECIALIST**  
Sandy McCulloch



**OFFICER**  
Mark Poole



**OFFICER**  
Kyle Resser



**DETECTIVE**  
Devin McBride



**RESERVE OFFICER**  
Jim Whitaker



**RECORD SPECIALIST**  
Christine Elam



**OFFICER**  
Maris Larsen



**OFFICER**  
Jeff Thaxton



**SRO**  
Kindryn Leiter



**OFFICER**  
Carolee Edwards



**OFFICER**  
Paul Dailidenas



**CODE ENFORCEMENT**  
Lisa Hopper