

2017 Marion & Matty Penick Outstanding Community Service Award

Name of Nominee: The Beavercreek Citizens on Preventative Patrol (COPP)

Name of Nominators: Barb DeMarey

The COPP began in 1987 as a volunteer group of private citizens to assist officers of The Beavercreek Police Department. The founder was Bob Wittbridge, a man who wanted to help officers by directing traffic at accidents, fires and public events. They also do vacation checks, assist disabled motorists and free up police officers to do more intensive work. They are also present at the 4th of July Parade, Popcorn Festival and many of the 5K runs.

Twenty-nine (29) years later, COPP is a driving strength within The Beavercreek Police Department and hold a very high presence within the community. Chief Evers states that COPP saves the department significant manpower, time and money. Volunteers are trained in police procedures in classes taught by police personnel, COPP volunteers, and representatives from various agencies connected with law enforcement.

Training to become a member of The Beavercreek COPP is approximately 8 weeks long and is conducted at The Police Department. The classes are held once a week for 3 hours each session. There is also a Saturday Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training session. In addition, the trainees spend 8 hours riding with Police officers and 40 hours riding with COPP members.

Trainees also spend several hours in the Communications Center to observe the dispatchers performing their duties taking 911 calls and dispatching Police Officers and Fire Department personnel. After all requirements are completed successfully, the trainees will graduate and receive their uniforms. Prior to graduation, the trainees must establish a partnership with another trainee or a current COPP member volunteer that does not have a partner. COPP members always perform their duties in pairs, are not armed, nor do they have any power to arrest or detain.

Volunteers must give 4 hours per week for a patrol and is expected to assist when summoned to perform "above and beyond" the required hours in case of an emergency. They also help at Memorial Day Events, Veterans Ceremonies and at The Beavercreek High School.

A COPP is required to be a resident of The City of Beavercreek, Beavercreek Township or be a business owner in Beavercreek. They also must submit to a polygraph and drug screening test prior to training.

In 1988, COPP was designated "Ohio's Best Crime Prevention Program" in the Public Sector by the Ohio Crime Prevention Association. This was in conjunction with the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Services.

I would like to recognize The Beavercreek COPP members for their solid dedication to The Beavercreek Police Department and The Citizens of The Beavercreek Community. The program is overseen by Chief Evers and Sgt Mike Hummel.

I recommend that we have members that have served the city for COPP duties be honored and the Award be presented to The Police Department.

The COPP is involved with many anti-crime prevention programs, they are the eyes and ears of the officer on patrol and report any suspicious activity back to the dispatcher.

This group of COPP volunteers receive no monetary reward, so I think it would be fitting to express to them and the program that the city and the Beavercreek Rotary appreciates their ongoing efforts to help assist keeping our city safe.