

BPD vs. COVID

For several months, each of us have encountered changes related to the spread of COVID. The work lives of our BPD team members have also changed. As quickly as COVID progressed so did our workplace safety policies. We created a variety of policies and procedures such as how we would continue to serve those placed in quarantine and/or isolation. We added additional personal protective equipment and decontamination stations. We implemented workplace sanitization procedures. We quickly determined that we would split our patrol division and have half of the patrol division work from another building. We did all of this so that we could keep our staff as healthy as possible so that they would remain ready to serve our community. As a safety precaution, we found it necessary to close our lobby and limit public access within our department. We recognize the inconvenience and do appreciate the adjustments each of you have demonstrated as we work to keep each other healthy.

The Chief's Corner

By Michael Luvera

Recently I read a comment that the worst purchase one could make in 2020 would have been a personal day planner. After a brief chuckle, I began to think about all of the

change we have endured since March. Many of us do not like change. We get comfortable with a routine, as routines are stable and comfortable. We especially do not like to make adjustments when we have little or no control over the situation. Our plans in 2020 most likely did not include large purchases of hand sanitizer, wearing a mask or instilling the practice of social distancing. Through change and transition, we find a way to adapt, re-focus

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The Chief's Corner continued:

and try to make the best of the situation. In the last newsletter I wrote about some of the positive changes in our organization and asked readers to “stay tuned” for the next, quite visible change.

In December 1974, Scott Hendrickson was hired as the Chief of Police and implemented the patch (bottom of column, left side) that we wore on our uniforms from that time until 2020.

So why change a patch that has served us for forty-five years? Well, as we were doing some Spring-cleaning we came across a faded and antiquated patch. It was a simple design and resembled the blue and gold colors of our B-EHS Tigers. Researching the history, we learned that the faded patch was a design worn from the late 1950's until 1975. The patch was replicated (pictured right) and is now once again, worn proudly on our uniforms.

I will end this with the same phrase I used in the last newsletter. “The only constant at BPD has been change.”



CITY OPERATIONS

City staff are still delivering a variety of services but offices remain closed to walk in public access.

See www.burlingtonwa.gov for the latest updates and contact information for services.

Stay Connected

Burlington City Council Meetings are being held via telephone. (see burlingtonwa.gov for call information)

7:00 pm on the second and fourth Thursday of each month.



CALLS FOR SERVICE

Yearly, we average approximately 194 calls for service each week. January and February of 2020 showed a slight increase to our calls when compared with the same months in 2019. COVID arrives and from March through June we responded to 775 fewer calls for service than we had in 2019.

In all of August 2020, we responded to only 90 fewer calls than we did in August 2019 showing a flattening of the decline in our calls. August 2020 was busy as we averaged 230 calls for service for each of the four weeks.

Burlington incorporated as a town in 1902. The fourth ordinance written (literally hand-written), established the salary of the Town Marshal of \$15 dollars per month. In addition, the Marshal was to receive \$1 dollar for each arrest made, after the conviction and fine paid, of course.

*For our younger readers this style of writing is cursive. Ask your parents or grandparents to help with the translation.

Ordinance No. 4. Repealed by # 46 sec 3

An ordinance relating to the salaries of marshal and ex officio street commissioner and clerk of the Town of Burlington, Washington

Be it ordained by the town council of the town of Burlington in session assembled:

Section 1: That the salary of the marshal and ex officio street commissioner of the town of Burlington shall be \$ 15.00 per month and in addition thereunto the sum of \$ 2.00 per day for each and every day expended in working on the streets and 10 hours shall constitute a days work. He shall also receive the sum of one dollar for each arrest for violation of ordinance, when conviction is had and the fine is paid.



No
speeding

In 1906, the City of Burlington created an ordinance regulating speeding. People were not allowed to drive an automobile, steam engine, buggy, bicycle, horse or mule "at a rate of speed greater than six miles per hour". Doing so could lead to your arrest and include a fine of no more than \$100 dollars. You would stay "in the town jail until such fine and costs of prosecution are paid".



Chief Cammock, Sheriff McDermott, Ellen and Bill Wiegand, Chief Mike Luvera



—Picture Courtesy I.J. Matthews, Slomer Studio
 11-1-56
 STANDING AT ATTENTION for their picture are the members of the Burlington police and the community can rightfully be proud of them for their fine record of service. Pictured are Bill Von Allmen, reserve; Ed Martin, reserve; Bill Wiegand, regular policeman; Al Gilfillan, chief; Melvin Hynes, regular policeman; Donald Judy, reserve; Bert Hibbert, reserve.

Earlier this year, Chief Michael Luvera of BPD, Chief Chris Cammock of MVPD and Skagit County Sheriff Don McDermott had the pleasure of visiting with Bill Wiegand and his lovely wife Ellen. Bill served as a police officer in Skagit County starting his lengthy career in the 1950's. During our visit, Bill shared with us many stories and a photo album commemorating the span of his service.

Below is a newspaper clipping from 1956 of the Burlington Police Department. Bill was one of two full time officers, serving with four reserve officers, with Al Gilfillan as the Chief of Police.

Did You Know?

- In 1956 BPD consisted of three full-time police officers. By 1968 BPD had 5 officers. Today we are budgeted for a staff of 27 police officers.
- Into the 1960's there was a red emergency light atop a power pole near Fairhaven and Cherry streets. When an officer was needed the light was activated, alerting the officer to telephone in for the information. It wasn't until the late 1970's when two-way radios became more common in law enforcement.
- The first 9-1-1 telephone call completed happened in Alabama in 1968. The digits 9-1-1 were selected because they were easy to locate on a rotary telephone. (rotary? Ask your parents).



Meet Sergeant Campo and his team of officers. This squad is one of the four patrol squads that make up our patrol division. Sergeant Campo works with Officers Pehrson, Huehnerhoff, Anderson and Jutte.

RETIREMENTS

68 years of law enforcement experience

Tom Moser joined BPD on February 1, 1990 after graduating from WSU and working as a reserve police officer for Whitman County. Assistant Chief Moser dedicated over 30 years of service to our department and community. Throughout his career, he received recognition for the calmness he brought to numerous chaotic events. He was promoted to Assistant Chief in 2014 and helped lead the department and community through some difficult times. We wish him the very best on a well-deserved retirement!



Ronald Dodds joined BPD on January 1, 1989. Officer Dodds started his career in law enforcement in 1983 first starting as a reserve police officer but quickly being hired to full-time duty. He spent six years serving La Conner before coming to BPD, a place he called home for over 31 years. Ron was well known throughout our community, not only as a police officer but also for the countless hours he volunteered as a youth coach and mentor. Officer Dodds was known as someone who approached each day as an opportunity to make a difference, and what a difference he has made! We wish him the very best on a well-earned retirement!





- Meet our new officers.
- Other City and community news and information.
- Upcoming programs and BPD events.
- Crime data with tips and techniques on how you can help reduce crime.
- And so much more!



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