On Oct 19, 2023 Spokane County, Fairchild Air Force Base, and community representatives celebrated the official opening of the Spokane County Sheriff Regional Training Center. Over 100 people gathered for the ribbon cutting ceremony and tour of the new facility located on the West Plains. The center is the first-of-its-kind and one of the highest caliber training facilities in the nation. The vision for this facility has been in the works since 2007. “This project has been a long time coming,” said Sheriff John Nowels. “This building signifies and symbolizes this community’s and our elected officials’ commitment to excellence in policing and excellence in supporting the men and women of the armed forces who keep us safe.”
The mission of the Spokane County Sheriff Regional Training Center is to ensure mission readiness for both Spokane County Sheriffs and U.S. Air Force members. “I see a symbol of partnership that is more powerful than the tools that the facility provides our airmen or our law enforcement professionals in Spokane County,” said U.S. Air Force Col. Chesley Dycus, Fairchild AFB 92nd Air Refueling Wing commander. Dycus commended all those who have been involved with the project along the way. “Thank you for refusing to say no and bringing this to fruition for our airmen and our law enforcement professionals.”

Former Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich said he was told when he took office in 2007 that the training center would never come to fruition. “If you think it’s worth it, never give up on it,” said Knezovich, who called the facility “the house of public trust.” Nowels presented Knezovich with the Sheriff’s Star award for his dedication to the Sheriff’s Office, his vision for the Training Center and for “bulldogging through all of the politics to get it done.” Nowels also credited Spokane Valley Police Chief Ellis for his valuable commitment and attention to detail to the project.
What do you feel has been the biggest success in 2023?
Our biggest success in 2023 has been increasing our presence in the community and focusing on community oriented policing. I see more and more deputies at community events that are not call for service related. We can certainly do more, but I am very pleased with what we’ve accomplished so far. We also made improvements in SCOPE, with the opening of the CV SCOPE office in the Valley Mall, the opening of the SCOPE office on Fairchild Air Force Base, physical improvements to some of our SCOPE stations, and increased recruiting.

What is your main vision/goal for 2024?
My main goal for 2024 is even more community engagement. As a necessary by product, we will focus on recruiting and retention. Building trust between the community and our deputies is a two way street. We have to strengthen our relationship as much as possible.

What is a fun fact about you?
It’s Christmas time. Growing up my family spent every Christmas with my extended family who all lived in Salt Lake City, Utah. Both my parents are from there, and we moved to Spokane when I was about a year old. Some of my most fond memories are arriving at my grandparent’s house after a long 10 hour drive in a station wagon with my parents and five siblings. I remember clearly running up to the back door and seeing my grandma and grandpa sitting in the kitchen/dining area, waiting for us to arrive. This pre-dated cell phones by more than a few years, so they really only knew an approximate time we would arrive. They were excited to see us, and six young grand kids and two exhausted parents were more than happy to be home with them! I remember the first thing we would do was run to the living room to see the tree my grandpa had painstakingly put up and help my grandmother decorate. My grandmother would then rush us out of the room so we didn’t break anything, and she could vacuum our footprints out of the carpet! That moment was when I knew it was Christmas time. Being with family. Being with Grandparents who sacrificed a quiet home and probably their sanity, to be with their grandchildren and children. They were very instructive to me about how to best deal with all the challenges that come with being a family, especially during the holidays. They were loving, caring, and most importantly graceful and forgiving. I try to live up to their example as best I can. This time of year can be challenging for all of us, even the strongest of families. Let’s remember grace and forgiveness if we can.
The ERC Team consists of approximately 30 dedicated S.C.O.P.E. volunteers who are trained and equipped to assist Spokane County residents, during emergencies, through a S.C.O.P.E. owned emergency radio communication system. The concept behind this developing program would be utilized during a county-wide emergency where power and all forms of communications (except radio communications) are inoperative. ERC volunteers would be deployed with appropriate radio systems, to designated county fire stations. Residents can then go to these fire stations and have their emergency needs recorded. These needs would then be reported through the ERC radio system to 911 dispatchers for appropriate response. Our goal is to continue to put processes and approvals in place to make this vital service available and successful if needed in the future. Stay tuned as the development of this program continues. If you would like to become a S.C.O.P.E. volunteer and be a part of the ERC program, please contact S.C.O.P.E. @ (509)477-3376.

S.C.O.P.E. PROPERTY CHECKS

Let S.C.O.P.E. be the eyes & ears over your home, business or property while you’re away. This free service, is a part of our COP(Citizens On Patrol) Program, where our trained volunteers provide prowl checks for businesses/homeowners, as well as patrol the area, calling in anything that looks suspicious. If you are going out of town this holiday season & want to request a property check, fill out the form located at the bottom of our S.C.O.P.E. website: spokanecounty.org/1378/SCOPE or by scanning the QR code.
S.C.O.P.E.
Sheriff Community Oriented Policing Effort

14 LOCAL S.C.O.P.E. STATIONS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Join S.C.O.P.E. & support the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office in making a difference in the safety of our communities.

- Participate in over 20 programs.
- Create long-lasting friendships.
- Increase community involvement.
- Improve your overall quality of life.

We Need Your Help!

Join Us Today!

Contact Us:
509-477-3376

SCAN ME!
PROTECTING YOUR PACKAGES FROM PORCH PIRATES

’Tis the season for porch pirates and these nasty grinches are active as ever, snatching packages from porches across the U.S. In fact—three out of four people had a package swiped in the past year. More than half of those packages we’re delivered by Amazon and valued between $50—$200, according to safewise.com. Package theft is a crime of opportunity. The more packages left for longer periods of time on a porch, the more likely they are to be stolen. As the Christmas gift season gets into full swing, there will be a significant increase in packages on porches. People are busier this time of year and have their routine shifted as they may work later and spend more time away from home shopping or visiting with family and friends, so packages are left sitting exposed on the porch longer. If your package gets stolen, report it to Crime Check (509)456-2233 and share video footage if you have it. Contact the sender, many retailers will send a free replacement but may ask for proof of loss. Contact the carrier, you can file claims online for FedEx, UPS, and USPS.

PREVENT PACKAGE THEFT

1. OPT INTO DELIVERY ALERTS
You can get alerts from both retailers and shippers to track the movements of your packages and know the moment they’re delivered.

2. REQUIRE SIGNATURES
This ensures that your package won’t be left on the front porch unattended - especially valuable items. Requiring a signature means your goods will end up in a human’s hands, not dropped on a porch.

3. MAKE ARRANGEMENTS
If you can’t be home to bring in those packages, have them delivered somewhere else. You can use a package locker service (like Amazon), ask a friend or neighbor, or ask to hold it at the carrier’s depot for you to pick up in person.

4. USE TECHNOLOGY
Doorbell cams, outdoor security cameras, and security systems can keep you in the know about what’s happening in front of your home and with your packages.

5. WORK WITH NEIGHBORS
More porch pirates are working together to grab as much as they can from entire neighborhoods. Check in to see if anyone has had a package stolen and make a plan to work together to keep an eye out for unusual cars, unfamiliar people, and sketchy camera footage. Consider joining a Neighborhood Watch.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY IN SUPPORTING S.C.O.P.E. (SHERIFF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING EFFORT) & THE SPOKANE COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE TO HELP US CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS IN KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE.

AVISTA FOUNDATION, ELK VFW, NORTH 40, LIFE WORKS, HOBBY TOWN, INLAND POWER, GAFFNEY ELECTRIC, 5TH AVENUE DENTAL, CHASE BANK-JAIME LINDLEY, LANZCE DOUGLASS PROPERTIES, DENNY & PAULINE PATTERSON, THRIVENT ACTION TEAM & "CHOICE" - GREG PREUSS, BARBARA VEIT, THE "EXCHANGE"-HELEN BOYD-SCHWARTZ, KIWANIS CLUB-BOB FISHER, YOKE'S FRESH MARKETS-JOHN ORTON & SCOTT DAY, LITHIA AUTO STORES-SCOTT BREWER, SPOKANE COUNTY INTERSTATE FAIR, GSSAC, WALMART, GREENBLUFF GRANGE #300, SPOKANE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, RIVERCITY MODELERS, TEAM ODZ SPOKANE LLC, SPOKANE BIKE SWAP, KIWANIS, COMMUNITY CANCER FUND.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL.
WE HOPE YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON.
PLEASE BE SAFE & TAKE CARE OF ONE ANOTHER.
Helpful Resources

**Spokane County Sheriff**
Sheriff John Nowels
Sheriff's Office Front Desk,
Located in the Public Safety Building
in Downtown Spokane
Open M-F 8:30am–4:30pm
Excluding holidays
509-477-2240
www.spokanesheriff.org

**Area Law Enforcement Agencies**

City of Airway Heights Police
509-244-3707

City of Cheney Police
509-498-9235

City of Liberty Lake Police
509-755-1140

City of Medical Lake
(services provided by Sheriff's Office)
509-625-4100

City of Spokane Police
509-625-4100
www.spokanepolice.org

City of Spokane Valley Police
509-477-3300
www.spokanevalley.org/police

FAFB 92nd Security Forces Squadron
509-247-5493

Spokane Int’l Airport Police
509-455-6429

Washington State Patrol, Spokane
509-227-6566 or 456-4101

U.S. Border Patrol
509-353-2747

**Law Enforcement Help Lines**

**Law Enforcement Help Line**
509-477-5980

**Call 9-1-1 in an emergency**
When you need IMMEDIATE help from law enforcement

**Call Crime Check 456-2233**
To report a crime, graffiti, an abandoned vehicle and/or suspicious activity
(Crime Check is available 24/7)

Crime Stoppers
www.crimestoppersinlandnorthwest.org
(Submit an anonymous tip)
1-800-222-TIPS (8477)

STOP Spokane Gangs
509-625-GANG (4264)
(Submit an anonymous tip)

STOP Graffiti
Report to Crime Check: 456-2233

Drug Hot Line
509-477-4778, to report drug activity

Traffic Hot Line
County 509-477-3222
Valley 509-477-3350

Runaway Help Line
509-477-6928

First Call For Help, Crisis Services
24-hour Regional Crisis Line
1-877-266-1818

WA. Poison Control Center
1-800-222-1222

Emergency Management Spokane
www.scem.org
509-477-3046

**LOCAL**

S.C.O.P.E.
Sheriff’s Community Oriented Policing Effort for Spokane County
509-477-3376
www.spokanecounty.org/cope

To start a Neighborhood Watch
509-477-3189
sgriffin@spokanesheriff.org

Spokane C.O.P.S.
Community Oriented Policing Services, for The City of Spokane
509-625-3300
www.spokanecops.org

G.S.S.A.C.
Greater Spokane Substance Abuse Council
509-922-8383
www.gssac.org

SCRAPS
Spokane County Regional Animal Protection Service
509-477-2532
www.spokanecounty.org/SCRAPS/

HEART
Humane Evacuation Animal Rescue Team
www.heartofspokane.org
www.spokaneheart@gmail.com

Spokane Humane Society
509-467-5235
www.spokanehumanesociety.org/

Spokane Law Enforcement Museum
509-625-3352
(A few items are displayed at the Spokane Valley Mall SCOPE Office)

WSCPA
Washington State Crime Prevention Association
www.wscpaonline.org