

May 15, 2017 Meeting

Frank Leone Jr., the SBCA SBPD & FD Liaison, who introduced guest speakers Deputy Fire Chief "Koko" Perkins, Police Chief Mike Gallagher and Officer Dave Hersey (new K-9 unit).

Koko Perkins (Fire Chief) Presentation

Perkins has been working as a professional for the town of Seabrook for 23 years.

In June the department will receive their new ladder truck, which they have been anticipating for a year now. The truck is in the process of being inspected, having the lettering put on it, etc.). It is a 110 ft. platform truck, which will add 30 ft. to their current capabilities.

A Verizon tower will be erected in collaboration w/ the SBPD (for dispatch purposes).

As far as man-power, an experienced (coming from Exeter) medic has been hired and there are 2 junior fire-fighters finishing up their schooling at the end of the summer.

With fire safety at the beach, keep bark mulch at least 18" from the foundation of your home (and off the siding of your home completely) and keep BBQ grills away from buildings. ... Catalano's fire was "fortunate" b/c of the zoning rules (having the building set-back).

Phyllis facilitated a Q & A exchange

Q: Vickie Sawyer (Atlantic Ave.)

I read in the local paper that the cause of the Catalano's fire was "undetermined." But what do you think may have been the cause?

A: Investigator Clark was on the scene early on in the fire. Based on the first calls/interviews and in putting out the fire, it was determined very unlikely that it was foul-play. It was thought by the FD to be electrical. Next, the insurance team determined the cause was mostly like to be electrical - b/t the floors (market to apartment units).

Comment: Betty McSwiggin (Suncook St.)

As a fireman's daughter-sister-niece, I thank you for doing such an awesome job the crazy night of the fire!

Q: Phyllis Farfaras (Ocean Blvd.)

Could you run a CPR program for the SBCA since there is now a need for it?

A: Yep, call the station.



Mike Gallagher (Police Chief) Presentation



This will be the first summer with 4 parking enforcement agents out at the beach. Gallagher held up the agents' new white polo uniform shirts and said to feel free to give input or ask questions on new agents.

At long last, our rank, is back to full-strength w/ 27 officers. There have been some promotions in the department. There are now 2 Lieutenants and an officer was promoted to Sergeant.

The Elmo D'Allessandro Fund (D'Allessandro was a Seabrook resident who left money for the SBFD) is providing the money to purchase new Patrol PCs for the patrol cars to replace aging equipment. Patrol PCs are an automated swipe system to issue tickets, write reports, etc.

The fund will also provide financing for police cruiser emitters, where you can have an officer change the lights at an intersection when going through the intersection (in an emergency). They will also get 7 radar units funded by the state.

There is a new K-9 Unit program being facilitated by officer Dave Hersey, who, about a year ago, inquired and researched about the possibility of obtaining a K-9. Officer Hersey will attend the K-9 Academy in Boston this fall.

Per Phyllis' request, Gallagher left 30 copies of a "House & Property Checklist"

Officers can no longer give out accident reports b/c of a recently enacted privacy act. (Most likely temporary...) On a related note, police officers can no longer encourage drivers to exchange information at the scene of an accident.

Warrant article (favored by a narrow margin) - to have a new parking lot paved at the PD for police officers. Gallagher reviewed SBPD Rules (locals laws & ordinances) & left 30 copies.

Gallagher (& Perkins) shared opioid epidemic stats:

* 25 over-doses in 2017 (4 deaths) - down from 2015

Now carfentanil is the newest deadly opioid drug and it will take a community effort to solve these drug issues.

An officer in the department will focus on providing resources to those in the community who want to quit using drugs. Safe Harbor is a new place for addicts to go in town.

Piping plovers are roped off and the PD is not allowed on the beach with their vehicles.

Officer Dave Hersey New K-9 Unit Program Presentation



(Patrolman in SB for 10 years on (mid) night shift)

K-9 Unit (dog) is not only to find drugs, but to deter drugs. The K-9 will assist with narcotic arrests, addictions and stings. The dog is screened by the Boston K-9 Academy by top trainers in the country (Troy Casey). The SBPD's dog will come from Holland or the Czech Republic. Hersey has requested an all-black German Sheppard (like the Salisbury PD has) - an all clear-headed dog.

The K-9 will deter people from doing bad things such as breaking into cars and houses.

The dog selected will fit well with the size of the town. The plan is to get the dog late July/early August and bond w/ Hersey around town for 1 month. Then it will be 14 weeks of training (w/ narcotics training to be scheduled at a later date). Goal is to have dog graduate on Jan. 3, 2018.

The dog will help w/ obedience, personal protection, article searches (such as guns or knives), and building searches, etc.

1 K-9 dog is equivalent to 10 police officers (a huge asset to the community).

The dog is considered an apprehension dog (& not a bite dog).

Lastly, the dog will serve as phenomenal PR at both school and town events.

Phyllis facilitated a Q & A Exchange to Gallagher/Hersey

Q: Joe Giuffre (Dracut St.)

Will the dog be able to find lost children or seniors who have lost their way?

Hersey A:

He will attempt to find anyone (or anything) w/ a scent on it (such as lost people, or clothes from a burglar).

Q: Phyllis (Ocean Blvd.)

Can you be on the beach when there are big crowds?

Hersey A:

The dog can do crowd patrol. But it's not a normal protocol and is at the discretion of the Chief (as to what the dog can/cannot do)...

Comment: Joe Giuffre (Dracut St.).

There are 3 pairs of piping plovers: 1) NH St.; 2) Haverhill St.; 3) Dracut St. They are here and hope to be off the beach in early July.

Q: Joe Giuffre (Dracut St.)

Now that you have a full staff of police officers, will Officer Jeff be available to patrol the beach for dogs (to protect the plovers)?

Gallagher A:

Yes, I will make sure that Jeff spends more time out there. Reminder: if you see something, say something.

Q: Vickie Sawyer (Atlantic Ave.)

What happened at Noodles Restaurant last Friday at lunch time b/c it was very unsettling when I saw 3 SB police cruisers/officers in the parking lot and a lot of "drama?"

Gallagher A:

I was on duty, but don't know. I'll give you my card and you can call me at the station. (Update: it was 2 things: 1) shop-lifting (@ AT & T mobile store) & 2) a fight b/t employees that work in that small strip mall.

Q: Connie Farah (Concord St.)

Can there be more patrol of dogs not on leashes?

Gallagher A:

We'll be out there more. Will look at town codes on the signs...



Q: Vickie Sawyer (Atlantic Ave.)

Why won't the police sub-station be coming back to the SBVD precinct building? (I hate to see it go & I will miss the PD presence).

Gallagher A:

The space is being leased (by a convenience store), but we'll still have Officer Deshaies down here.

Frank Leone (Tyngsboro St.) asked Gallagher to review the fireworks protocol (b/c it's a hot topic that always comes up).

Gallagher:

In the summer time you have lots of visitors and renters who don't know the rules. You can buy them in town, but they don't advertise that it is illegal to light them off in the Seabrook Beach area. The SBPD takes calls and prioritizes them. An officer usually goes out to the scene, but by the time they get there, the people are either gone or the officer is told "I didn't do it" from bystanders. If an officer can, they will issue a summons. The department keeps logs of reports.

Frank encouraged the PD to use a sign on Rt. 286 to read how they are illegal. However, when they do that (according to Gallagher) the fireworks stores get upset b/c that's their livelihood and then complain at the town hall about how the sign is negatively impacting their business.

Q: Phyllis (Ocean Blvd.)

Will "Coffee with a Cop" resume?

Gallagher A:

Yes. Trying for mid-summer at the beach. Gallagher invited the audience to attend (held the last Friday of the month - the schedule is on Facebook & at the town office).

The next one is Friday, May 26th, from 9-11 a.m. @ the Rec Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vickie Sawyer (Secretary)

(Edited by WEB Site Manager to comply with Privacy requests)



