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~ Media Advisory ~

Springfield Police Department Seeks Citizen Academy Applicants

Deadline for applications is Friday, March 9

Springfield, OR – Want to take a peek behind the scenes at the daily jobs of police officers and all the folks who work side-by-side with them? The Springfield Police Department will hold its 2007 Citizen Police Academy from April 3 through June 12. The no-cost, 33-hour training program, which consists of classroom and “hands-on” instruction, is open to anyone age 18 or older. Preference will be given to Springfield residents and people doing business in Springfield.

Classes and Applications: The classes cover officer selection and training, the job of the uniformed patrol officer, investigation skills, tactical operation, canine unit, use of firearms, vice and narcotics, communications, crime scene search, and crime prevention. Students tour police facilities, use police equipment and fire police department-issued weapons.

Classes are held weekly on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., with the exception of a couple of the classes. To graduate, each student must attend at least nine of the eleven classes.

Anyone interested in completing an application can obtain one from the Springfield Police Department at 344 A Street or at the police department’s web-site at www.ci.springfield.or.us/police/home.html . The application must be returned prior to March 9. All applicants will be notified regarding their acceptance to the academy by March 19.

Background:

The Academy is designed to provide citizens with a better understanding of the nature of police work, and to give them an opportunity to interact with Springfield Police Department staff in a non-emergency setting. It’s also an opportunity to provide input on police policy, practice and procedure. Police Chief Jerry Smith, himself one of the Academy instructors, says the course is “a long-established and important police/community relations program.” The course is designed for citizens from all backgrounds and occupations.

For more information: contact the Springfield Police Department Community Services Unit at 726-3731, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

