

*Winter*



*City News*

*From Councilwoman Jeanne Faatz*

## **Cop Shop volunteers give police time to fight crime**

Here's a quick quiz: The best use of a police officer's time is: a) filling out mountains of paperwork; b) shuttling police cars in for oil changes; c) listening to gripes that have nothing to do with police work; d) putting bad guys in jail and keeping the streets safe.

If you chose "d" and care about your community, take a look at the Bear Valley Cop Shop. The storefront in the Bear Valley Shopping Center has 19 citizen volunteers who are making a real difference in law enforcement. They take reports, fingerprint kids, answer questions and do whatever a civilian can take care of so a sworn officer doesn't have to. The reason is simple: to make sure commanders pull police officers off the streets less than they'd otherwise have to.

Just taking a patrol car in for routine maintenance can cost the department about two hours of an officer's time. With a volunteer doing the shuttling, the cost is offset and that officer can be deployed to the streets. Two hours can add up to thousands of hours and save lots of money. In September alone, Cop Shop volunteers put in more than 500 hours, taking 22 reports, shuttling 74 police cars and helping 104 citizens. Not bad for fewer than two dozen volunteers at a 7-year-old nonprofit.

The program is called Community Operated Policing. Participants get regular training and are supervised by Denver officers. The volunteers serve because they care about their community and know it's in everyone's interest to keep a strong police force, especially when times are tight. They pitch in on non-emergency matters from stolen license tags to raising money for the KYGO Christmas Crusade for Children. Last year, the Cop Shop raised more than \$2,000.

For more information about the program, call 720-865-2146 or visit the Cop Shop at 3100 S. Sheridan Blvd., Suite A-20.

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