



Vacaville Police Department

660 Merchant Street

Vacaville, California 95688

Communications Center: 707.449.5200

Internet: <http://www.cityofvacaville.com/departments/police/pressrelease.php>

Press Release

Today's Date: 08/25/14
Submitted By: Susanne E. Johnson, Police Special Services Supervisor
Phone: 707-449-5200

CITY OF VACAVILLE SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS HONORED AT CEREMONY

The Vacaville Police Department's annual Awards and Training Day for Crossing Guards was held recently at the department's Emergency Operations Center.

The Awards and Training Day, held August 12, 2014, was a chance to recognize those crossing guards who showed exemplary service during the past year; welcome new crossing guards into the organization; and provide training for the people who help get our children across the streets near schools in a safe manner.

Chief John Carli and Captain Ian Schmutzler welcomed the 36 crossing guards in attendance and presented the following awards:

- Sherry Smith – Fairmont; Ahnjayla Thompson – Markham – one year pins
- Ana Ewing - Vaca Pena; Oscar San Nicolas – Foxboro; Dalene Sovine – Relief – five year pins
- Janis Dmytriw – Hemlock; Johanna Hoagland – Markham; Penny Ramey – Cambridge - 10 year pins
- Penny Ramey - Excellent Attendance
- Robert Murray – Callison - Perfect Attendance

Murray also received the prestigious "Crossing Guard of the Year" award. Murray has assisted school children traveling to and from Jean Callison Elementary School, at the intersection of Marshall and Vanden, since 2011. Murray's infectious smile and enthusiasm has created an atmosphere that puts everyone on their best behavior. Both students and parents love to be greeted by him each day. He has a gift of making everyone's day brighter while providing safe opportunities for the children to cross the street. He has even been known to sing a jingle he wrote to teach kids how to cross.

Following the Awards Ceremony, several field experts provided exceptional training on: Traffic Awareness (Traffic Sergeant Vince Nadasdy, Motor Officer Carly Broadus); Communication with Safety Dispatchers (Communications Center Supervisor, Karen Lyons); and Verbal Judo aka Compassionate Communication Skills (Officer Aaron Love). It was a great day and after a pep talk from Coordinator Cindy Ward and Supervisor Susanne Johnson, they were ready and excited for the new school year.

Recruitment for Part-Time School Crossing Guards is ongoing. Information can be found by visiting www.cityofvacaville.com/crossingguards or by calling (707) 449-5434.

Criminal activity can be reported at www.cityofvacaville.com/departments/police, or you can call "Crime Stoppers" and leave an anonymous tip at 707-644-STOP (7867). Crime Stoppers may pay up to \$1,000 for information that leads to an arrest.



Helpful Traffic Laws for Local Schools and Crossing Guard Etiquette

PEDESTRIANS: Wait on the sidewalk for the Crossing Guard to stop traffic and signal to you that it is safe to cross in the crosswalk. Remember Crossing Guards are there for your safety.

- Crossing Guards use hand signals and a whistle; one toot is for the drivers to stop and two toots release pedestrians to cross
- Crossing Guards are assigned to regulate traffic flow as well as cross pedestrians at safe opportunities, so it is important that everyone follow their direction

Don't teach your children to cross in the middle of the street. Teach by word and example to cross in the crosswalk with the Crossing Guard. Remember the California Vehicle Code (CVC) 2815 requires you and your children to obey the Crossing Guard's direction.

DRIVERS: Stop for the stop sign and remain stopped until the Crossing Guard steps back onto the sidewalk. This allows for the safety of the Crossing Guard and pedestrians that the driver may not see or be aware of.

- Stop behind the crosswalk line to allow for pedestrian crossing.
- Do not inch forward until the Crossing Guard has exited the street. Remember that the California Vehicle Code (CVC) 2815 requires you to remain stopped until the Crossing Guard and children reach a point of safety (the sidewalk).
- U-Turns are only allowed in residential zones when no other vehicle is approaching from either direction within 200 feet. This space is hard to find in front of schools and not a safe choice where children often dart across the street between vehicles. California Vehicle Code (CVC) 22103

DROP OFF AND PICK-UP: Always pull over to the curb to drop off and pick up passengers.

- Loading zones can only be utilized when actively loading or unloading and they are subject to a parking citation when the driver is away from the vehicle. [10.20.020 (F) VMC Loading Zone]
- Traffic lanes should never be used for loading or unloading. Safe, courteous, and appropriate locations are the best choice. Impeding traffic movement is a citable offence California Vehicle Code (CVC) 22400(a)

Vacaville School Crossing Guards are assigned to 28 intersections that include 14 public elementary and middle schools. Remember to be alert, keep windows clean for a clear view, drive safely around school zones, and give yourself enough time to avoid being in a rush on the roadway.

