



MEDIA RELEASE

April 18, 2014

Punta Gorda Police Announce **Annual Award Winners for 2013**

The Punta Gorda Police Department honored its 2013 top performers during the agency's annual employee recognition family picnic at the Punta Gorda Elks Lodge #2606 on Saturday, April 5th. Employees, volunteers, family and community partners turned out to recognize Punta Gorda's finest. The event was hosted again this year by the Elks, who purchased, cooked, and served the food for all attendees. The event also included a bounce house for the kids, water balloon tosses, the department's new Interactive Center and some good old-fashioned family time.

Award recipients for 2013 included the following:



Officer of the Year

Police Officer First Class Justin Davoult

Officer Davoult was honored by his peers for his outstanding performance during 2013. Officer Davoult led the agency in drug arrests and was second in total arrests, total incidents handled, and total traffic contacts. In addition, Officer Davoult spent countless volunteer hours working on the department's new Interactive Center for kids, volunteered to assist with retirement ceremonies and enhancing the department's gym, and constructed a new custom physical abilities test course for the agency. Justin continues to go above and beyond for his agency

and his community.

Civilian Employee of the Year

Accreditation Manager Gloria Sepanik

Gloria was honored by her peers for her outstanding performance as the Accreditation Manager in 2013. In a short time in her new position, she led the agency to achieve Excelsior status - the highest form of recognition for a Florida law enforcement agency. The department attained this status with zero corrective or non-compliance issues. In addition, Gloria spends numerous hours volunteering with the department's Jammers Youth Basketball program and the local Special Olympics.





The Roger W. Fenneman Volunteer of the Year Award

Volunteer David McBride

David was recognized for his extraordinary dedication to the Volunteer Marine Patrol program. David spent numerous hours scheduling and assisting with the maintenance of the volunteer patrol vessel. In addition, David was instrumental in the rescue of a struggling victim who fell off his vessel during the 2013 Pirate Festival. David has been a huge asset to the Punta Gorda Police Department and the City of Punta Gorda. The Punta Gorda Police Department was proud to present this award to David in memory of the department's former Volunteer Services Coordinator, Roger Fenneman.

6th Annual Customer Service Award

Police Officer First Class Joseph Angelini

The agency's prestigious sixth annual customer service award was presented to Officer Joseph Angelini for his leadership in enhancing and modeling the department's customer service philosophy. As the new School resource Officer at Sallie Jones Elementary School, Joe was instrumental in quickly building relationships with school staff and students at Sallie Jones. Joe is very involved in his community with various non-profit organizations and is dedicated to making his department and community a better place.



2013 Community Alliance Award

Charlotte State Bank and Trust

Charlotte State Bank and Trust (CSB&T) was presented the Punta Gorda Police Department's Community Alliance Award for 2013. CSB&T was recognized for their strong support during the agency's Excelsior Accreditation process and many other important community initiatives sponsored by the police department. CSB&T provided numerous presentations to agency members in furtherance of the department's Employee Development program.



Annual Innovation Award

Lieutenant Joe King



Lieutenant King was the winner of the 2013 Innovation Award for his vision of converting an aging utility trailer into a fun, interactive learning center for youth. Lieutenant King took the lead in soliciting the community and collected over \$10,000.00 toward the construction and completion of the project. Since its inception, the center has been a popular item at all local events and schools.



Additional 2013 Award Winners:

2013 Exceptional Team Performance - Telecommunicators Audrey Denis and Cynthia Proud

2013 Life Saving Award - Police Officer First Class Dean Irving

2013 Family Member of the Year - Fred Sepanik

“2013 was a historic year for the Punta Gorda Police Department,” stated Chief Butch Arenal. “Uniting our families, friends and community partners to celebrate our great successes of 2013 is always a special day. The officers, employees, and volunteers of the Punta Gorda Police Department are all award winners every day of the year in my book.”

Prepared by:

Lieutenant Joe King

Punta Gorda Police Department

(941) 575-5525

jking@pgorda.us