

March Springs Forward

The month of March brings many changes to the Woodland Police Department (WPD) Volunteers in Policing Program (ViPs). Congratulations to our own Morgan Sedeker who is now the Crime Prevention Specialist and Supervisor of the Volunteer Program. Although Trista is not officially the supervisor, we all work together as a team, so don't forget to both congratulate Morgan and thank Trista for her support over the years. Morgan has stated that she plans to serve both roles, which makes sense since many volunteers have been very involved with community efforts through the crime prevention and community relations program at the WPD. Along with supporting safety patrols and the records office, ViPs are able to provide hands-on support at many events. This March several members of the ViPs and the WPD staff and officers spent time in Woodland schools on the March 2, 2020 Read Across America Day. This is one of the many events, which along with an increased use of social media, which have increased the community's engagement with the WPD. Along with this news for the WPD, but there are many other important dates which bring changes March:

- March 2: Read Across America Day
- March 8, 2020: Daylight Savings begins
- March 13: K-9 Veterans Day
- March 14: National Pi Day
- March 17: St. Patrick's Day.
- March 20, 2020: WPD Annual Award Ceremony and the First Day of Spring
- National Youth Violence Prevention Week March 28 through April 3, 2020

As the weather warms and we all start to spend more time out of doors, every ViP thinks about what more we can do to support the WPD in the same way the department is creative in its effort to support the community. In February, Chief Kaff addressed the city council to get approval to seek funds from the U.S. Department of Justice for a grant to hire three more patrol officers, including one who would be assigned to Cesar Chavez school, which the council approved. Part of the plan to address an increase in violence in Woodland over the past year also included a focus on using social media. Follow the WPD Facebook page for very timely updates concerning arrests and Warrant Wednesday, which could have led to an arrest.

Along with these winds of change, all first responders are becoming affected by the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-2019), a virus identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China. The novel coronavirus 2019 is a new virus that we haven't seen before. At this time, it's unclear how easily this virus is spreading between people. The Yolo County and California Health Departments along with the national Center for Disease Control are organizing our county's preparedness for the outbreak. Since recent outbreaks have occurred in Yolo County. Our Health and Human Services agency has developed

messaging, but this does affect our officers, so if you have time take a squad car to Sparkles for a spring cleaning!

Symptoms

For confirmed COVID-2019 infections, reported illnesses have ranged from people with little to no symptoms to people being severely ill and dying. Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Prevention

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19 infection. Transmission of infection is believed to be through contact with respiratory droplets, such as from a cough or sneeze, from an infected person. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus. **The risk of novel coronavirus infection to our community is low.** However, as a reminder, public health experts recommend everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of common respiratory viruses, such as the flu, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What is Yolo County doing to respond to this situation?

- Our Infectious Disease staff have stepped up disease tracking capabilities and are working with our healthcare providers to quickly identify potential cases.
- Our healthcare partners have been provided with the most current clinical guidelines for evaluating potential cases.
- We are in regular communication with both the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to keep up-to-date on the current situation and guidelines on handling potential cases.

The best sources of information will be your healthcare provider and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- If you are concerned about your current health, you should contact your primary care provider directly for additional guidance.
- Those who want to know more about travel advisories, signs and symptoms, are encouraged to utilize the resources and found at California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) websites.