



# The Bayshore Sun

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## CPA graduates latest class

On Nov. 17, 2009, the La Porte Police Department was pleased to announce the graduation of another Citizens Police Academy. For the second time this year the agency has enjoyed the privilege of hosting a reception for former cadets as they celebrate their new-found success with family, friends, and their local police department.

Members of the class included Michel Benoit, Peggy Boyett, LaWanda Brightman, Brandon Carver, John Dupuis, Robert Foster, Megan Goines, Amanda Gomez, Deborah Hathorn-Delozier, Douglas Hathorn, Ronald Honeg, Debbie Janssen, Russell McKey, Stephanie Mitchell-Mathews, Warren Portenier, Paula Rizzuto, Joshua Spruiell, Tonya Tacy, Grisel Wallace, Lee Wallace, Nattie Warren and Paula Wohnoutka. Officer Jerome McKown provided a repeat performance as Class Coordinator for the CPA class and was assisted at the graduation ceremonies by LPPD Chief Ken Adcox. Each of the graduates was presented with an official diploma recognizing their dedication and accomplishments over the last 14 weeks. Officer McKown highlighted the theme of the ceremonies as he expressed, "Each and every employee of our department sincerely hopes that our CPA graduates will remain partners with us and come back for the many volunteer opportunities we have available".

The ultimate mission and primary focus of the CPA is to bring the Police Department and the community closer together by educating one another. The Department's believes that the goal of establishing a safer community can best be achieved if the police and the community positively connect with one another. In short, the La Porte Citizen Police Academy is a community awareness program geared toward a partnership between the police department and the citizens they serve.

CPA participants attended classes at the La Porte Police Department every Tuesday night for 14 consecutive weeks, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. As with the previous 2009 CPA class, cadets were provided with a large group of well-qualified instructors. Courses were all taught by city of La Porte Police Department employees, both certified police officers and civilian employees serving in specialized positions. To supplement the classroom instruction, hands-on training was offered to participants involving 15 areas of police operations, ranging from Special Weapons and Tactics to Community Policing.

Participation in the CPA is free and all materials are provided by the Police Department. Applicants must be at least twenty years of age with a clear criminal history. This means that applicants can have no convictions for felony offenses,

cannot be on probation for any reason, and must not have any outstanding warrants. An application is also required to be completed and a background check will be conducted prior to the first night of class. The department asks that all applicants live or work in the City of La Porte, although occasional exception(s) may be made.

CPA graduates will find an abundance of rewarding volunteer opportunities and they also become eligible to participate in the department's "ride along" program where they can

experience police patrol first hand. The department reminds other citizens who desire a more meaningful connection with their police department, but are not able to attend a CPA class, that an alternate version the ride along program and similar volunteer opportunities exist. For questions concerning La Porte's Citizens Police Academy, please contact Officer Jerome McKown at 281-842-3157 or log onto the department's website at [www.ci.la-porte.us/gov/police/support/default.asp](http://www.ci.la-porte.us/gov/police/support/default.asp).