

Connecting WITH THE HOBART POLICE DEPARTMENT



Officer of the year is a tireless Crusader



By Vance Johnson, H.P.D.

When Jack Grennes joined the Hobart Police Department in 1996, he never imagined it would lead to his appointment to a position he feels so passionate about. But he achieved his goal. Jack serves as his agency's D.A.R.E. Officer. D.A.R.E. stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education.

It's difficult to walk around Hobart without running into young people who know and respond affectionately to Officer Grennes. During the city's annual Lakefront Halloween Parade, where young trick-or-treaters can safely collect their candy, Officer Grennes is often

loaded down with his favorite snack, Butterfinger candy bars. Kids chase him down to forfeit their own because they know how much he likes them. Grennes can always be found at the 4th of July parade and other similar functions on his department mountain bike. He supervises the department's bike program and is a certified I.L.E.A. instructor for police bicycle operation.

For all these reasons, no one was surprised that Officer Jack Grennes was awarded Indiana's "D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year" award at their annual conference in Columbus, Indiana.

The School City of Hobart is proud of Officer Grennes and the young lives he continues to touch every day.

Prior to his appointment as the department's D.A.R.E. Officer, patrol officer Grennes all too often witnessed the unfortunate and many times tragic results of kids involved with drugs and alcohol. As most police officers know, kids with too much time on their hands and with little or no supervision often turn to drugs and alcohol to fill that void. Throw in peer pressure and many of these kids stand almost no chance at all, but Grennes believes the D.A.R.E. program works.

This school year Grennes is taking D.A.R.E. to Hobart Middle School. "Any positive interaction between kids and law enforcement can only benefit them and us," Grennes said.

"Jack Grennes cares more about kids than anybody I know."

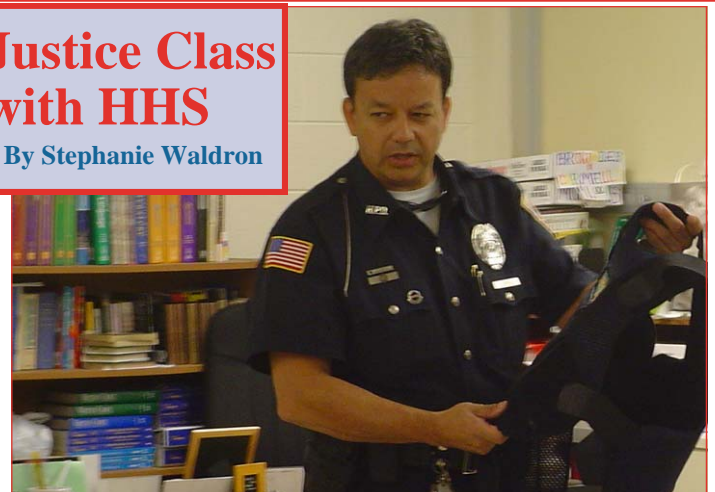
Detective Jeff White

Detective Jeff White, former commander of the department's Special Services Division, said that a few years ago all specialty programs were being looked at pretty hard and D.A.R.E. was facing the chopping block. Officer Grennes made a heartfelt and passionate plea for the program and with some minor modifications, the program continues today.

Hobart High School is offering a new class this year, Law Enforcement and Homeland Security. It will be taught by Officer Jack Grennes. The law enforcement class is for Juniors and Seniors who are interested in pursuing a career within criminal justice or just interested in learning more about this broad field. Some of the topics that will be covered in this two quarter class include crime scene investigation, the judicial system, terrorism, and homeland security. The curriculum for the class is exciting and varied with presentations, computer programs, guest speakers, and field trips.

Criminal Justice Class Connects with HHS

By Stephanie Waldron



Officer Grennes is certified as a vocational teacher based on his experience as a police officer. He has been a police officer for the City of Hobart for nine years. Many children know Officer Grennes as this city's D.A.R.E. officer, a position he has held for six years. Grennes' other responsibilities for the police department include Training Instructor for the Law Enforcement Training Council, Certified Evidence Technician, and Certified Mountain Bike Instructor.

This law enforcement class is a cooperative effort between the school administration and the Hobart Police Department. "It has created a bridge of communication between the local police department and the students at the high school," said Chief Snedecor. He also believes the students taking this class will have an edge over other students when they continue their study of law enforcement in college.