

THE IPM SCANNER

The official newsletter of the International Police Museum
at Rockaway Beach, Oregon



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Welcome to the Scanner, the official news letter of the International Police Museum at Rockaway Beach.

2017 is off to a great start with 419 visitors for the first quarter 2017, an increase of 250% over the same period in 2016. The International Police Museum (IPM) had an amazing year in 2016 with 3,841 visitors in our first full year of operation. The visitor numbers have been individually verified by check marks, either by the VIPs or museum volunteers. We have been well received by the community and visitors and we even finished the year with money in the bank. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the International Police Museum Board of Directors, the museum volunteers, and the Police Department VIPS (Volunteers in Police Service). I would be remiss if I did not also thank the City Council and City staff for their support of our tourist attraction. Over 95% of the visitors are from over 50 miles away and many said they heard of us from a local merchant, hotel or saw us on social media, including Facebook and Trip Advisor. IPM got our first significant print exposure when our ad came out in the December issue of "Oregon Coast" magazine. We also joined the Tillamook Chamber of Commerce and have an ad in their publication, the "Tillamook Coast Visitors Guide". It will be interesting to compare 2016 numbers with the end of 2017 after a year of print ads in addition to our social media sites. All of our print ads were made possible with the assistance of the County's Visit Tillamook Coast (VTC) grants. See more Tillamook Coast at their website; <https://tillamookcoast.com/>. The community support and hard work of all the volunteers has paid off with a new attraction which, after a full year in operation, is beginning to gain attention and traction in Rockaway Beach.



IPM Executive Director Ed Wortman,
Chief of Police (retired) 2007 - 2015.
Board member - volunteer - curator

The museum hosted or participated in several community events in 2016. These events included an open house, a book signing, and displays at the National Night Out Against Crime with the Rockaway Beach Police Department. IPM also had displays at the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police, the Boring Post Office, and the local US Bank. Each of our displays was very positively received. The IPM participated with the other museums in Tillamook County for the Step Back in Time event in August for the second year in a row. This is a great cooperative effort which showcases the museums in Tillamook County and IPM is proud to be a part of it. Other county wide efforts included the Tillamook Farmer's Market display locally and the "Shop Small Saturday" part of a statewide initiative to support small, local business. 2016 was our first year for those events and we look forward to participating again in 2017. During September, we hosted a successful book signing by Washington author Sydney Sheldon for her book "Jailhouse Stories of Early Pacific County" (WA). We also participated in special appreciation event for the police volunteers and hosted our local Lions club at the museum. Both groups are strong museum supporters and do a lot for the Rockaway Beach community. We look forward to our continued participation in these events.

Volunteers are our life's blood and we have some of the greatest volunteers, including our Board of Directors. Several of our volunteers are also police department volunteers. Some of our volunteers started as museum volunteers before working with the police department, while others are are police volunteers who have been with the museum almost from the beginning. We are always seeking additional volunteers who can meet the visitors, handle the gift shop, and answer questions about the displays. We give a special "Thanks" to Doug Tharp for taking on the leadership of the volunteers! If you know someone who can assist us in the museum, please ask them to contact any volunteer or board member to get a volunteer application.

Our many displays, including our feature entitled Women in Law Enforcement, continue to receive great reviews. Visitors also like our weapon and evidence displays, particularly the forensic dentistry display which includes an actual human skull. Provided by Gary Bell, DDS, Forensic Dentist and Consultant to the Washington State Patrol. The display explains the importance of dental identification in unidentified remains or criminal cases. The interactive “Bear Game” where participants follow clues to find teddy bears in the display cases, continues to be popular with the young visitors and parents alike. We have some additional ideas on how to make the interactive area a little more “kid friendly” and add some things that all visitors can be “involved” with, but it will take a bit more time and funding to develop. Our old jail door from the Rocky Butte Jail has become one of the most photographed spots in town. Our newest display includes a door from the television series GRIMM. The door was located for us by a Friend of the Museum, Juanita Kitterman, at the prop warehouse sale in Portland. Thanks Juanita! Visitors are invited to have their picture taken with a real piece of movie history. Other displays include an antique breathalyzer, portable burglar alarm, a polygraph machine, camera and telephone displays. Opening in May, a new display called “Rattle to Radio” will trace the evolution of police officer communication from the pounding of the watchman’s staff on the cobblestones to modern day digital transmission.



We are constantly evolving, seeking new ways to improve the visitor experience and to support our community. In addition to providing a tourist attraction, our having an available bathroom has been well received as facilities can be in short supply at the beach during the summer. Besides, we have some great “bathroom decorations” that may generate donations.

Coming Events:

March 24-31 and March 31 – April 8. School Spring Break in Oregon and Washington. Museum open 9-5 through the police lobby and 10-4 weekends.

May 1 - Museum open 10-4 daily, either through the police department lobby, or through the museum doors on weekends. Sandwich board and flag to be used to draw attention to our displays.

August 18-20 - Step Back In Time. All museums in Tillamook County participate in this three day event sponsored by the Tillamook Coast history Alliance. A single \$20 ticket gets access to 12 sites and a ride on the Oregon Coast Scenic Railroad from Garibaldi to Rockaway Beach. For more information: <http://www.tchistoryalliance.org/>

IPM Scanner - Published quarterly, watch future issues for upcoming events, as well as short biographical reviews or our board members, officers and volunteers. You can also follow us on Facebook and post pictures of your visit.

You can help preserve history and the IPM. The Museum is always seeking volunteers, cash donations, and old, unique equipment items, documents, and posters related to law enforcement. As an example, there is very little photographic or written history on the Rockaway Beach Police Department. It is more interesting when items can be identified to a specific person or department. Donations are identified, cataloged, and displayed with the information available to make them relevant and understandable.

You can contribute to this valuable work. While IPM admission is free, we still have costs including rent, utilities, repairs, and office supplies. Help to preserve this attraction by becoming a Friend of the Museum, contributing at any US Bank. See our museum web site at www.internationalpolicemuseum.org for other way to donate. Contributions are also accepted at the museum.

All donations are tax deductible as IPM is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization.