***Media Relations Information for 10/01/2013***

*Public Relations Officer – Sgt. John Krueger*

*Office: 281-842-3161*

**La Porte Police announce next Citizens Police Academy**

Keeping up with their ongoing success in hosting various community outreach programs, on January 21st, 2014, the La Porte Police Department will begin another Citizens Police Academy (CPA). This will be the first of the agency’s 2014 basic CPA classes, with a graduation date set for April 29th, 2014.

La Porte CPA is a community awareness program that is intended to create a stronger partnership between the police department and the citizens they serve. CPA participants attend classes at the La Porte Police Department every Tuesday night for 15 consecutive weeks, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Participants are exposed to a large group of well-qualified instructors. All courses are 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 is offered to participants involving 15 areas of police operations, ranging from Special Weapons and Tactics to Community Policing.

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. Participation in the CPA is free and all materials are provided by the Police Department.

An initial application is required to be completed and a background check will be conducted prior to the first night of class. Applicants must be at least eighteen years of age with a clear criminal history. This means that applicants must have no felony offense convictions, cannot be on probation for any reason, and must not have any outstanding warrants. The department also asks that all applicants live or work in the City of La Porte, although occasional exception(s) may be made.

For questions concerning La Porte’s Citizens Police Academy, contact Officer Jeff Tippit at 281-842-3174 or visit LPPD’s website at www.ci.la-porte.us/gov/police/support/default.asp.