

EARLY BIRD WEEKLY



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

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Last week was Jeff Kosmicki, Newberg's Interim Police Chief and newest Early Bird Rotarian.

Jeff was born in Roseburg and spent most of his younger years with his mother's family in the Eugene area.

A lot of summers were spent in Newberg with his dad, Craig.



He remembers first being employed at Abby's making 25¢ an hour. He says he will need to "draw something up talk to my dad about that. I think that was what they call slave labor?"

Editor's Note: When I fact check for the newsletter, it's usually to verify my notes. In this case, I learned something about Abby's. First, it opened in Newberg 1978 (two years after Brad opened Ye Olde Pizza, 1976). I was a sophomore at NHS. When Jeff mentioned his dad, Craig, as the owner, it felt like history. Turns out Craig Kosmicki still operates Abby's. It hadn't occurred to me that I had never connected Abby's with an owner or family. Here endeth my squirrel moment.

Jeff remembers working at the bowling alley (it burned down decades ago). When Butler Chevrolet was across from City Hall.

After Jeff graduated North Eugene High School (1987) he moved with a good friend to Tigard. "We lived there for almost a year before we got kicked out. I'm not gonna tell you why but we might have been a little rowdy."

He met his wife, Kristen, in 1989 and married in 1993. She holds a real estate license and works full time at her sister's furniture business.

Kristen's parents are Keith and Mary Lou Gouger. Mary Lou retired Ewing Young after 23 years teaching first grade. Keith is a retired plumber, owner of Century Plumbing.

Jeff graduated George Fox College

(University now) in 1993 with a master's in business administration.

Jeff and Kristen have four children; Justin, Sydney, Austin, Ashley...and a 3 year old dog named Gunner.

All the kids were involved in school athletics. The boys played lacrosse, the girls played basketball and lacrosse.

Jeff became a reserve officer in Newberg 1996 and hired full time in 1997.

Fun Fact: My wife was pregnant through both academies.

Since joining Newberg-Dundee's Police Force Jeff has served in roles of patrol officer, narcotics detective, and patrol sergeant. He was assigned to YCINT (Yamhill County Interagency Narcotics Team) for awhile.

In 2007 he was promoted to Lieutenant. This assignment included supervision of the Special Investigations Unit, Evidence Facility, and Animal Control.

That [animal control supervisor] "is not a fun job dealing with a lot of complaints."

His duties also included City and County Emergency Management, Accreditation, Police Policy Manual, Police Officer Hiring Process, Internal Affairs, Major Crimes Response Team, Public Relations Team and the departments of Public Information Officer (a fun role for someone that "doesn't like to speak on camera").

He is graduate of the 221st FBI National Academy session in Quantico, VA. Fewer than 1% of United States law enforcement have the opportunity to attend this training. Among the benefits of attending is relationship building with federal law enforcement agencies.

In 2010, Jeff was promoted to Captain.

When Chief Casey retired last year, after 29 years of service to Newberg and Dundee, Captain Jeff Kosmicki was awarded the position of Interim Police Chief while the department conducts its search for a permanent chief.

When Jeff started with the force the job of police officer was focused more on arrests, getting to the bottom of things, and solving cases. This position is more focused on relationships, in and out of the department.

One of the hardest parts of the job has become people second-guessing and judging on life-altering decisions that must

be made in split seconds.

These people don't have all the information necessary to form a just opinion. "That's part our fault," but the information most crucial must be kept in confidence during the investigative process.

Among the biggest challenges are what's presented in the media. While most things are factual, many are not.

An issue of race discrimination against a job applicant to the city was brought to his attention with evidence to support the claim. Jeff made sure it was investigated. Doing so, and going up against the city, risked making himself a target. That's exactly what happened.

He himself was investigated and threatened with termination.

Sometimes, doing the ethical thing comes at personal cost. He also knows that what others say about you, doesn't define you.

Why did Jeff join Rotary? He was invited to speak a few months ago and appreciated the warm welcome and also knew many of us in attendance.

As he looked deeper into the values of Rotary he saw his own next stage of life. As a global and local community service organization that gets meaningful things done and doesn't shrink away from an objective, just because it seems impossible.

Something many may not know about Jeff is that he's coached women's basketball, at middle and high school levels, for nine years now. Yes, that means he got to coach both his daughters' teams.

"That's about it. I told you it was boring."



This was the first frame of the recorded meeting after that comment. Just sayin'.

Frank Douglas, Division Fire Chief. We all hear stories about police, as first on scene, not being the best at caring for patients. We have a lot to be proud of in Newberg's officers and the care and respect they provide when people really need it.