

Cadets Filling Calendars

With program no longer grounded, JROTC has busy summer

Community service, volunteering and recruiting fill cadets' calendars

ANITA E. BAFFONI
abaffoni@ricentral.com

COVENTRY— Over one weekend, the Coventry JROTC completed over 120 volunteer hours at various events to help support local veterans. With the program spared from being cut, the cadets are preparing for a busy summer ahead.

The school department cut \$100,000 from the program budget that was originally set at \$250,000. Dottie Jackvony, who is heavily

involved in the JROTC, said the students were thrilled when the program was saved from the chopping block.

"It is always a heavy heart for them right before they learned the fate of the program and it does take a toll on them," Jackvony said. "Children are supposed to be resilient and it put a lot on their shoulders and sometimes I worry they can't handle it, but they did."

Earlier this month, the cadets volunteered at events simultaneously, with some students participating in Relay for Life — an event

that raised money for cancer research — and performed the honor guard for the retirement of Chief Master Sergeant Lori Ashness, who is retiring from the Air Force.

"She has been a strong supporter at Coventry

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Coventry Air Force JROTC cadets with Chief Master Sergeant Lori Ashness (center), a supporter of the program who is retiring from the United States Air Force.



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High School and the ROTC,” Jackvony said. “She has been a mentor for years and what better way to give back then to do the honor guard for her retirement.”

In addition, cadets participated in a pig roast to benefit Operation Stand Down by helping raise money for homeless and in-need veterans.

“This summer, the cadets will be volunteering with VFW Post 9404 and Operation Stand Down again. They do a lot of work and these kids really get the feeling of what it means to give back to the community and their veterans,” she added.

The cadets are also utilizing the summer months to recruit students to join the JROTC program at Coventry High School, as they need 100 cadets in order to get recognized and funded through the Air Force.

Jackvony said they have about 90 cadets currently enrolled and are nearing their goal of 100 cadets.



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Members of the Air Force Junior ROTC at Coventry's Career and Technical Center often help out at VKW Post 9404 on South Main Street in Coventry. Here, they stand behind member of the post, Walter Clarke.