



Claremont's incoming police chief is Chino High graduate

Claremont Police Department's newly named Police Chief Shelly Vander Veen is a Chino High School graduate who grew up playing soccer with Chino Police Chief Karen Comstock, a Don Lugo High graduate.

Captain Vander Veen will assume her duties Nov. 23, replacing retiring Chief Paul Cooper. An official badge ceremony will be held 5:00 p.m. Nov. 28 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Claremont. The ceremony is open to the public.

Captain Vander Veen, the daughter of a Chino area dairy family, said she attended the former Gird Elementary School, Magnolia Junior High, and graduated from Chino High in 1987.

While at Chino High, she was a top player on the school's cross-country, soccer, and softball teams. She also made the game-winning field goal in the Chino High Powder Puff football game in December 1985 when she was a junior. She was one of five Chino High students earning the Presidential Physical Fitness Award in 1985, and she was a member of the Chino Sunbirds soccer team that won the Girls Under 12 State Championship in 1981.

Captain Vander Veen was an honor roll student at Magnolia and Chino High, and received the U.S. Army Soccer Award, Distinguished Athlete Award, and two scholarships in her senior year.

After high school, Captain Vander Veen received her associate's degree in psychology and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Sienna Heights University in Michigan. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in law enforcement executive development through California Southern University.

While at Sienna Heights University, she was honored as an All-American Soccer Player and an Academic All-American in both soccer and softball. She was also inducted into the University's Athletic Hall of Fame. She is still active in sports and has received gold medals in soccer, softball, and boxing at the Western Police and Fire Games and International Police and Fire Games.

Captain Vander Veen is a 23-year veteran of the Claremont Police Department, who started her career as a reserve officer in 1993. She was selected by her peers as the Officer of the Year two times, was selected four times as the Police Department's Supervisor of the Year, and received the City Employee of the Year award in 2013.

Congratulations to the newly named Claremont Chief of Police! We are thrilled that your education at Chino Valley Unified helped you obtain skills leading to your current success! We are always ecstatic to learn that one of our students has become a leader in their community.

Link to Inland Valley Daily Bulletin article on the incoming police chief:

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/government-and-politics/20161108/claremont-gets-new-police-chief>