Recently, Lt. Sprague nominated Officer Paul Carpenter for the Spokane Police Department’s Lifesaving Award. The Spokane Police Department Lifesaving Award is given to department personnel who, by their immediate actions, have saved a human life under unusual and/or extraordinary circumstances. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed his nomination, it was clear that Officer Carpenter was most deserving of this recognition.

On May 28, 2012 a man was involved in a bicycle/vehicle collision at the intersection of North Columbia Circle and North Park Boulevard. The man was in a life threatening condition with injuries suffered and he had also suffered a heart attack. When Officer Carpenter arrived, a citizen who had been giving the victim CPR, asked Officer Carpenter to take over. Officer Carpenter determined that the male was non-responsive and could detect no breath from the males mouth or nose, and could not detect a pulse. Officer Carpenter checked the male’s airway, then began CPR compressions. The male remained unresponsive for several minutes before finally he began trying to breathe on his own. Officer Carpenter continued with chest compressions until relieved by Spokane Fire Department paramedics. Updates from the hospital went from effectively deceased, to life-threatening injuries, to critical but stable. On Wednesday, October 3, 2012, the man called and left a message stating that he wanted Officer Paul Carpenter to receive a life saving medal for saving his life.

Officer Carpenter, due to your immediate actions, intervention and performance of direct medical aid, you saved a human life. You will be awarded the Lifesaving Medal and the uniform Lifesaving Bar during the annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February 2013. A copy of this document will be placed in your personnel file.

Frank G. Straub, Jr.
Chief of Police