

Volume 3, Issue 12

Newsletter Date
December 15th, 2008

ROCKLIN PD NEWS



Rocklin Police Department

Message from the Chief by Mark Siemens

The Competition is On!

Well it is December and we are officially three days into the second annual goatee growing contest. I ask that members of the public be patient as our staff try to grow their whiskers as some may look, well a bit scruffy for a week or two.

The goatee contest was brought back by popular demand. There have been a few changes and everyone should be apprised regarding the rules of this challenge. The prize for winning a category this year will be one of the four administration parking places next to the back door and an opportunity to sport that winning goatee for 30 days after the competition ends.

The categories for this year's com-

petition are: **Most Distinguished, Most Debonair, Best Shaped, Most Terrier-like** (insert your imagination here). As you can tell these are not completely objective categories so the judges will have to be at the top of their game.

Just as last year, the judges will be selected from our female members who apply to Captain Ron Lawrence before January 5th, 2009, presuming that they are not in the contest. The selection of four judges will occur by special drawing. The winning judges will have the pleasure of taking possession of the prize parking places from January 13 through February 13, 2009. Of course there is fine print in every contest, so I suggest you keep reading.

FINE PRINT:

Current holders of parking spaces to be given as prizes are not eligible to win, you will be judged separately and more harshly than others. The grooming standards for police personnel are amended during the contest period from December 15, 2008 through February 13, 2009 to allow facial hair, specifically goatees, providing they do not interfere with personal protective equipment. If you need a further definition of goatee, please sign up to be a judge.



*Merry Christmas
and Happy New
Year!*



Captains Corner, by Dan Ruden and Ron Lawrence

With only ten shopping days left until Christmas, I am left scrambling (like many men) to get my gift-list checked off. Forging out into the mall jungle without a specific objective is not something I am prone to do well, and as helpful as Santa's elves are my eyes still seem to glaze over at the thought of randomly searching for unknown gifts. But as I began to peruse the various shops and stores looking for those perfect gifts, I found myself experiencing the holiday spirit that seems to fall upon us each and every year during this season. One only need walk around the Police Department to catch the holiday fever from all of the decorations, eatable goodies and Christmas cards strung about. Even though Amy

Lind is probably tired of hearing my off-key Christmas tunes being whistled from within my office, people inside and outside the Police Department seem happier, friendlier and in a giving mood. The smell of a freshly cut Christmas tree, the glimmering lights, holiday music, smiles and laughter bring to my mind a relaxed, worry free feeling. I am reminded of how fortunate I am for my family, friends and co-workers,

Merry Christmas



all of whom tend to get a little bit closer this time of year. I was speaking to someone about how nice it would be if this festive atmosphere could last all year round, when it occurred to me that it does! Of course the seasons and holidays come and go, but the thought of being giving, caring and happy are something that our community and our Police Department stand for. It seems to be a part of the

fabric of what it means to be a Rocklin resident or employee. Our work environment is a significant part of our lives, and I feel blessed to work with a group of people so dedicated to one another and devoted to public service. I hope for you and your family this year a warm and loving holiday season, filled with joy and happiness. I also wish for all of us to enjoy another upcoming year filled with optimism and cooperation as we serve our community in this noble profession. Happy holidays!

"A good conscious is a continual Christmas." - Benjamin Franklin

New Riders on School Buses by Sgt Bob Martin

The Traffic unit and the Reserve Officers teamed up with the Rocklin School Transportation Department to alert motorists about the dangers of passing a school bus with its emergency lights and stop sign activated.

Reserve officers rode on the bus and monitored the bus stops while motor officers followed from a distance. Violators were observed pass-

ing the school bus after the school bus driver had activated the flashing red lights and stop sign. The reserve officer radioed the license plate, description of the vehicle and driver to the waiting motor officer. The Rocklin School Transportation Department established a list of locations where bus drivers had experienced a high number of violations that occurred

during their travels.

Several of the bus drivers had commented about the students' behavior while the officers were on board and said it was a very quiet and enjoyable ride. Future operations are predicted and are encouraged by the school's transportation department.



Officers pictured from left: Greg Gaughan, Steve Ortmann, Anthony Lavagnino, Casey Finney and Jeff Amado



Operation Identification, by Mike Nottoli

On December 9th, I met with the Rocklin Police Department management team and a midnight shift patrol sergeant to discuss some ways that department personnel and community members can reduce the number of thefts from vehicles. Our discussion was multi-faceted and included actions involving education, prevention, enforcement, evidence collection, investigation, documentation, etc.

From a community education standpoint, the Rocklin Police Department does a good job of communicating the importance of taking preventative measures to reduce thefts from vehicles. These measures include locking your vehicle, installing a vehicle alarm system, removing valuables, making sure any valuables in the car are not visible, and parking

vehicles in a garage whenever possible. Most Rocklin residents who are informed and truly concerned about the security of their vehicles and their contents do a pretty good job of practicing those preventative measures.

On the other hand, the majority of people in Rocklin (and every other city) have not taken the proper steps to help police identify and recover their valuables if they are lost or stolen. During a recent discussion with a Rocklin patrol sergeant, a property crimes detective, and a crime scene investigator, they could remember the last time they encountered a piece of valuable property that "came back as stolen" when the serial number was run in the Automated Property System (a nation-wide computerized data base of stolen property). They

also rarely find property that is engraved with a driver's license number.

Here's the problem. When we recover valuable property or arrest someone with property in their possession, we usually have no way of linking the property back to its rightful owner. If, however, the owner of the property had engraved the item with a driver's license number and/or previously reported the property as stolen and provided a serial number for the police report, we could verify that the property was in fact stolen.

Therefore, we would like to encourage all Rocklin residents to mark and record their valuables right away. This process is called Operation Identification. There is no cost involved, and in just a couple of hours, you can have most of your valu-

ables marked and inventoried. We invite people to come down to the police station at 4080 Rocklin Road to pick up an Operation Identification property inventory form and to borrow an engraver. Please call 625-5416 to make sure there is an engraver available before you make the trip. We also recommend that you photograph and/or videotape your valuables. This is especially important for coins, jewelry, paintings, vases and other items that you can't mark with a standard engraver. I hope all residents will take the time to participate in the Operation Identification Program, and help reduce thefts from vehicles in Rocklin.

Responsible Host Program, by Mike Nottoli

The Responsible Host Program provides parents with excellent information about the perils of hosting or knowingly allowing alcohol/drug related underage parties to occur in their homes. The information comes in many forms including a tip sheet for hosting safe parties, guidelines for letting kids attend parties elsewhere, the penalties for furnishing alcohol to minors, and the health consequences of underage drinking.

The program also established the creation of a county-wide data base where parents can register their dwelling as a "Responsible Host" residence. As a "responsible host", parents sign and agree to abide by the following pledge:

1. I will not allow parties in my home when I am not present.
 2. I will be an active chaperone at parties in my home.
 3. I will not serve, nor willingly allow, minors to consume alcohol or illicit drugs in my home or on my property.
 4. I will welcome parents/guardians of youths attending a party at my home to call and check on party details, times, supervision, and/or any other concerns.
 5. I will not hesitate to call a parent/guardian if a problem arises with their youth in my home.
 6. I will encourage my son/daughter to only attend parties at addresses listed on the Responsible Host data base.
 7. I will monitor and control the number of people who attend parties at my home. I will call the police if the party gets out of hand or if uninvited guests refuse to leave.
 8. I will discuss with my son or daughter the ramifications of advertising or posting party information on the Internet or any other medium.
 9. I will share the contents of this pledge with my entire family.
- When a parent(s) signs a pledge

and submits it to their local law enforcement agency, the information is stored in a data base. Persons wishing to find out whether a particular home is a "Responsible Host" residence can log onto www.pcoparenthost.com and can type in either the address or phone number of a residence. So far, 471 people have submitted pledges and applications and now have their residences listed on the website.

It is our hope that this program helps parents and young people avoid the pitfalls of alcohol-related parties. Please take the time to check out the new website and take advantage of the valuable information.



Clean Your Act Up, By Lt Lon Milka

IMPACT –

That is what Code Enforcement Officer Rick Southern is having upon the blight in our city. For those of you who don't know, Southern enforces various provisions of the Rocklin Municipal Code by seeking compliance, issuing warnings and/or citations, and assisting in providing information for citations relating to code enforcement. Additionally, Southern reports on violations of the City's business license codes, provides detailed investigations on activities which are in violation of other municipal codes, meets with members of the public to describe code enforcement programs, contacts violators of ordinances to seek compliance with regulations, suggests ways to improve our existing municipal

codes, and is a great resource to patrol officers. Whew! Southern works in the super cool Operations Division and he is quite adept at what he does. As of this writing in early December, he already had 50 cases assigned to him that include property maintenance and graffiti cleanup enforcement. We know what graffiti cleanup enforcement is but what about property maintenance?

Property Maintenance: **Rocklin Municipal Code 8.04.020 Section A, B, C, D, and E.**

- A. Broken or discarded furniture, household equipment, visible from the street.
- B. Overgrown **vegetation** that would harbor vermin or obstruct

view of drivers on public streets, travel on sidewalks, walkways, or other public rights of way.

C. Vegetations dead or diseased or hazardous, or unsightly or dangerous to the public safety and welfare and visible from the street.

D. Boxes, lumber, junk, trash, barrels or drums, salvage materials or other debris kept on the property for an unreasonable period and visible from the street.

The photos show before and after pictures of a Rocklin residence which was unoccupied and which was blight to the neighborhood. Using his keen investigative skills and powers of persuasion, Southern was able to help

clean up the neighborhood. Way to go, Rick!



BEFORE



AFTER

2008 POLICE AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the following awards recipients, honored at the 2008 RPOA Holiday Party:

Specialty Awards

Officer of the Year:	Brandon Olivera
Public Safety Dispatcher of the Year:	Pam Henley
Professional Staff Member of the Year:	Sara Boccoleri
"Felony Pinch" Award (Most felony arrests - 85):	Chris Spurgeon
"Hook Em' and Book Em' Award (Most overall arrests - 100):	Jeff Paxton
Traffic Safety Award (Recognition of Traffic safety efforts):	Greg Jensen
Traffic Unit Safety Award (Recognition of Traffic Safety efforts):	Casey Finney
"Dynamic Duster Latent Lifter" Award (Most AFIS hits):	Sumer Regalia

Commendable Awards

Life Saving Award: **Dan Groff**

On January 19, Ofc Groff responded to a call of a female who was unconscious. When he arrived he found the woman in the bed room. Ofc. Groff heard the last exhale from the woman who was in distress. With the assistance of the woman's teenage son, Ofc Groff began CPR. Her chest rose and fell as they continued CPR until AMR arrived. As she was taken by the ambulance the woman began breathing again. She eventually made a full recovery.

Medal of Merit: **Anisha Harper**

On October 24, PSD Lead Anisha Harper handled a 9-1-1 call in which a woman was in labor. Harper began providing EMD over the telephone. During the 911 call, using EMD and instructing the woman's husband on how to deliver the baby, Harper successfully delivered a healthy baby girl.

Medal of Merit **Brandon Olivera**

On November 12, Ofc Olivera received a "BRONZE MEDAL OF HONOR" from the Placer County Law Enforcement Agencies Board in recognition for his five year tenure with the Placer County Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and his dedication to the citizens of Placer County in his efforts to rid the county of illegal narcotics and educate the public on the hazards of drugs. Ofc. Olivera's expertise as an undercover Special Agent in SIU become known throughout the entire County and his extraordinary commitment to the fight against illegal drugs has earned him this very special distinction.

Certificate of Commendation: **Sumer Regalia**

On August 14, CSO Regalia responded to an exceptionally gruesome, traumatic suicide-by-shotgun investigation of a 25 year old female. A seasoned officer described it as the "worst" death scene he had ever seen in his career. Regalia worked for two hours taking photographs, searching for evidence and assessing the death scene. CSO Regalia took 76 photos of this horrific scene and provided input regarding the investigation. Regalia provided a calm, professional and competent CSI element to this investigation. She was professional in the midst of a traumatic, gruesome death scene and operated like a seasoned, professional crime scene investigator.

Certificate of Commendations: **Anisha Harper, Sandra Hopkins, Ofc. Montgomery, Ofc. Norman, and Ofc. Jonas Wilks**

The officers responded to a large structure fire. They put themselves in harms way to evacuate residences. They were prevented citizens from interfering with the Fire Dept's operations, or getting hurt. Harper and Hopkins handled and coordinated the emergency response expertly. They handled an extreme amount of 9-1-1 calls while handling other dispatch operations.

Certificate of Commendation **Chris Spurgeon**

On April 29, Detective Spurgeon was honored by the Sacramento Area Shriners during their annual "Jay Reynolds" law enforcement awards banquet. Det Spurgeon was recognized for his proactive police work as a detective in investigating crimes and solving cases. He was among a handful of law enforcement officers throughout the Sacramento Region to receive this honored recognition.

Certificate of Commendation **Pam Henley**

On October 28, Pam Henley received a Citizen "Life-Saving" award from a heart-attack victim at a City Council presentation. The award was for her swift actions in coordinating Fire personnel, and her ability to keep the caller calm, which greatly assisted Fire personnel in the saving of the heart-attack victim's life.

Certificate of Appreciation **Volunteer Frank Yoshack**

On November 12, Frank Yoshack received a "VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD" from the Placer County Law Enforcement Agencies Board for his dedication and efforts as a Volunteer, as a "Functional Coordinator" and his supervision of other volunteers. Frank has dedicated over 1,800 volunteer hours to the Police Department.

Ten-Year Reserve Service **Greg Gaughan**

Res Ofc. Gauhan began his career with the Rocklin Police Department as a Reserve in 1993, having dedicated more than 15-years to the City of Rocklin. He did not receive his 10-year pin in 2003.