

# ROCKLIN PD NEWS



## Rocklin Police Department

### Message from the Chief by Mark Siemens

#### Done at Last

In previous articles, I have talked about the Accreditation Process and what is left to come. Well the push is over, the onsite assessment is complete and we are taking a deep breath. We have learned a lot through the process and even during the onsite the assessors found some items we had overlooked and ways we could improve. They also found so many things we are doing very well. During the exit briefing, the assessors pointed out several areas that could be considered "Model Programs." Those areas included: Evidence, Records, Dispatch, Volunteers, and our facility. They also had a lot to say about the professionalism of our personnel and the large number of people involved to make our accreditation attempt successful. One assessor even asked if we were taking applications!

So am I proud of our accomplishment? Yes, but not nearly as proud as I am of all of you who worked tirelessly for the last twenty seven-months to meet this goal. Lieutenant Freeman and Sergeant Butler gave stellar performances as program leaders, but many others contributed. Here are a few:

Lieutenants Milka and Newman (retired) did yeoman's work in developing policies and procedures for detectives and patrol. Anisha Harper, Jennifer Stroble, Janice Westmoreland and Jennifer Collins stepped up for Dispatch and Records procedures and proofs. Aaron Robertson and his tenacious pen scrolled through the creation of the Procedures Manual. Mike Nottoli, with help from his army, marched forth with the details of the Volunteer Program policies and procedures. Wendy Smith pulled out big guns for proof hunting and file development. Sgt. Bob Martin sped to assist with the oversized load of traffic policies. Sharon Whittaker processed the evidence procedures with a fine tooth comb. Matt Diridoni shoveled through the technical matter. Sgt. Tom Dwyer shot a perfect score on the range and armory details. Virginia Trevino, Ronee Robertson and Patty Lewis helped with file development and organization. We cannot forget the tireless policy review from RPOA President Bart Paduweris and Trent Jewell. And last but not least, Lisa N. and Amy Lind came through tying up all of the loose and dangling ends.

Of course, once all of these policies and procedures were developed, someone had to read them. The speed that we got through the policy roll-out was pretty amazing and the feedback was great. Kudos to all!

Sunday morning, the first day of the onsite, everyone jumped in to make it a success. From our Building Maintenance Worker Matt McClure, to our City Manager Carlos Urrutia, and Vice Mayor Brett Story all hands were on deck to welcome the CALEA assessors. The static displays were staffed by informed, professional and energetic individuals who gave a great overview of our department.

I know that the extra work has been hard, but things that are worthwhile are seldom easy. It is a wonderful thing when a plan comes together. We all can be proud of our accomplishment! Bravo!



#### Special Points of Interest

- Message from the Chief
- Leadership Reaction Course a success
- Recruits to graduate this week!

### Captains' Corner, by Dan Ruden and Ron Lawrence

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## Bon Voyage, by Jennifer Collins

DeeAnn Ralphs will be leaving us soon to go on to bigger and better things. She is looking forward to spending more time with her family and focusing more time expanding her businesses. DeeAnn has worked for Rocklin Police in both a volunteer and part-time capacity.

Most recently DeeAnn has helped in Records at the front counter and with our sex registration program. DeeAnn has spent a great deal of effort updating our program and streamlining our paper processing. She has been a great relief and support for the investi-

gations unit helping to bring many a registration violator to justice. DeeAnn will be in and out over the next few weeks and will help train her replacement. Please thank her for her service and wish her luck in her endeavors.





Please remember to R.S.V.P. **SOON** for the  
**Rocklin Police Officers Association Ball**  
 coming up on January 5th!

## New Face at the PD, by Captain Ron Lawrence

Beginning in November, we had a new smiling face bouncing around the Police Department. While she isn't a Police Department employee, Livia Mora-Fowler will be working out of our facility part-time on a new collaborative project with our police volunteer program. The program is designed to train police volunteers to assist Livia with accessory vehicles stored on private property, which are not in compli-

ance with the City Municipal Code.

Livia began her employment with the City of Rocklin in January of 2006, as a Code Compliant Officer, and works out of the Building Department. She came to Rocklin with seven years previous code enforcement experience, four years with the City of West Sacramento and three years with the City of Citrus Heights.

Livia has been issued a police radio and her call-sign is 3-N-50. If you haven't met Livia yet, once you do, you can't help but notice her positive, friendly, can-do attitude. She will undoubtedly make a fine addition to our team. Please welcome Livia to the Police Department and help her to feel like a part of the family! Oh yeah, and by the way...she is one of three judges on the panel to judge for the Christmas Decorat-

ing competition, so you better be nice to her! Or at least until after Christmas.



## Leadership Reaction Course, by Lt. Lon Milka

The Operations Division supervisors recently participated in Leadership Reaction Course (LRC) training at Camp Parks in Dublin, CA, with several US Marines including Major Aaron Robertson. Aaron works for the police department as the Administrative Analyst and is currently on military leave.



The hands-on, minds-on LRC consists of a series of individual stations involving obstacles. The obstacles require teams to move ammunition boxes, ropes, boards, and other team members from one side of an obstacle to the other without touching the ground, i.e., swift moving water or mine field: All transfer of personnel and objects must occur within a 12 minute time frame. Did I mention that the

obstacle briefing and planning must also occur within the 12 minute time frame?

The LRC put teams into uncomfortable situations and out of their comfort zones. It develops self-confidence, team-confidence, the utilization of decision making processes, and the importance of timely decision making.

A typical scenario was as follows:

*A bridge that spans a river is partially blown out. There are two long boards and one short board (none of which span the distance). Cross the river with two ammunition boxes and your team. Then disassemble your makeshift bridge without allowing anything to fall into the river.*

The experience that our corporals, sergeants, and I had showed that diversity of talent, knowledge, and experience was our greatest asset. Trust, cooperation, and effective communication were keys to our successful team operations.

Speaking for the supervisors, I would like to thank Major Aaron Robertson and his team of US Marines for their help. They assisted us without hesitation, they were friendly, and we all can be quite proud of "our country's finest" in uniform.



## Alert Investigator Nabs Repeat Offender, by Sgt Horriilo

### SOME PEOPLE WILL NEVER LEARN!!

On 12-05-2007, Corporal Bart Paduveris was prepared to testify in a DUI prelim in Placer County Superior Court. But the defendant, David Calabrese failed to show up at his scheduled court time. Calabrese telephoned his defense attorney and advised him that he was on his way to court from Millbrae. Calabrese said that he was

running late because of traffic and that he was currently in Auburn on Hwy 49.

Corporal Paduveris knew that Calabrese's CDL was suspended for two prior DUI convictions, so he waited in the court's parking lot to see if Calabrese was driving himself to court. A few minutes later a white van pulled up that was being driven by Calabrese. When Calabrese exited the

driver's seat, Corporal Paduveris identified himself as a police officer and began speaking with Calabrese. Corporal Paduveris noticed that he exhibited signs of intoxication. Corporal Paduveris' investigation led to Calabrese being arrested for 11377(a) H&S, 11379 H&S and 23152 VC.

Calabrese has an offer of 4-years state prison for the two

cases investigated by Corporal Paduveris. Needless to say a threat to the community was taken off our roads. BUT... some people will never learn...



## When Suggestion Boxes Work, by Capt. Dan Ruden

I've heard a lot of stories about suggestion boxes. There's the one about the paper shredder disguised as a suggestion box. And there's the suggestion box that's too small to fit even a matchstick inside. There are the ones that are never checked, and the ones that never see more than a gum wrapper deposited into them.

Then there are the new Rocklin PD Captains' Suggestion boxes. So far these have proven to be a useful communication tool for many, especially the captains. The two boxes debuted in early November (at the "suggestion" of a couple of our employees). By the end of November there were nearly 30 suggestions deposited into them.

The good thing about a suggestion box - when it works properly - is that management folks can get candid feedback and new ideas from the people who are closest to the job, but who otherwise

have little input into the decisions that are being made. Yet theirs is often the clearest perspective of how well things are working, what isn't working and how we can do things better.

And with that in mind, there have been some great suggestions so far. About a dozen of the November suggestions have already been implemented, 7 are still being researched, 4 have resulted in a clarification of an issue and 5 of the suggestions could not be implemented. In any case, at the end of each month, responses to all suggestions are posted in the Briefing Room.

Suggestions that were implemented for November include eliminating some unnecessary passages in arrest reports, suggestions to remove the requirement for redundant police reports on party calls and public intoxication arrests, and a sug-

gestion to better use our technology to reduce radio traffic.

These were all great suggestions which made good sense. So why didn't we change this stuff ourselves? We certainly agree that these changes were needed. Well, the honest answer is that sometimes we managers miss a lot of the little things that frustrate folks on a regular basis. These things we should have known about, but maybe nobody really complained about it beyond the water cooler. Maybe they did but there wasn't a clear communication path that allowed these issues to get addressed quickly, or at all. We hope the suggestions boxes can help clear these paths and improve our communication.

And while a suggestion box can cut through a lot of red tape, as we have seen, there are even better ways for an organization

to collaborate on change and improve itself. Plans are underway to start a process improvement team in the Department. Similar to a vertical staff team, this group will represent all functions and levels within the Department. Just having these interests together in the same room will allow us to resolve many issues. But here suggestions can be processed from start to finish. Like the suggestion box, this will be a great opportunity to keep getting involved.

Meanwhile, we look forward to more great suggestions. Thank you all for taking the boxes seriously and trusting us to take your suggestions seriously.

## LOJACK Arrest, by Sgt. Tom Dwyer

On December 3rd at approximately 8:30am, Rocklin Police Officer Jerry Seawell received a LOJACK (auto theft device) signal. After notifying dispatch, Officer Seawell began tracking the source of the signal with help from his fellow officers. They were able to locate the source of the signal in the west parking lot area of the Sunset Summit Apts. The signal appeared to be coming from a garage or suspicious van in the parking lot. A LOJACK Rep. indicated the vehicle ID number was from a motor cycle which had been

reported stolen from earlier that Monday morning.

While at the scene Officers checked the suspicious van in the lot and discovered there were no plates on the van and the VIN was covered on the dash. After illuminating the interior of the van through the windshield officers noticed what appeared to be two motorcycles partially covered inside.

The Placer County Regional Auto Theft Task

Force arrived and were able to locate the owner information on the van. After a short stakeout two suspects arrived on the scene and entered the van. After starting the van they were quickly taken into custody. Items of evidence were located in the van, in the suspect vehicle and in the suspects possession linking them to the van. Both suspects were arrested without incident and booked into the Placer County Jail.





## Animal Control Officer Rasher to the Rescue, by Sgt. Tom Dwyer

One cloudy chilly morning in the back parking lot of the Rocklin Police Department, Officer Ortmann was walking from the motor garage to his office when he was startled by a commotion in the bushes in front of the Chief's



car. He cautiously moved toward the sound and discovered what he thought was possibly a sleeping giant. He quickly backed away when he saw a furred creature streaking through the vegetation. Officer Ortmann came into the building and advised me that he saw something strange in the parking lot that should be investigated. I returned to the landscaped area of the parking lot, the location the unknown creature had been seen. Sure enough there



was something lurking in the bushes. I slowly and cautiously pushed the bushes aside with my foot, hand on my gun, OC in the other hand, to discover four furry, black, scary, .....

little bunny rabbits. Animal Control Officer Anna Rasher arrived on the scene and rescued the bunnies from the cold and transported them to the animal shelter.

Good work to everyone involved!



## Rocklin Recruits Set To Graduate! By Captain Ron Lawrence

Our two "soon-to-be" newest police officers, Gavin Ray and Zachary Lewis are scheduled to graduate from the Sacramento P.D. Police Academy on Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. All are invited to attend the graduation ceremony, which will begin promptly at 6 PM, at the Sacramento Convention Center, located at 1400 J Street. Those choosing to attend are authorized to wear Class-A uniform to show our Rock-



lin support. Recruit Ray and Lewis have worked hard over the past six

months, and according to Academy Commander Lommori both recruits have done a stellar job. Ray scored an average academic score of 93.5% and served as a group squad leader, and Lewis scored an average academic score of 93%. This is a proud day for them and for Rocklin Police Department.



## Christmas Decorating Contest in FULL SWING!

There's been BIG talk and lots of strategizing, comparing and competing for the Christmas Decorating contest! The official judging date is set for Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30PM. Contestants need not be present to win. Five professional judges have been randomly selected to participate in the judging, and we hear their tough.

Good luck!

