

ROCKLIN PD NEWS



*"It is the Mission of the
Rocklin Police Department
to Serve, Protect
and Promote a
Safe Community."*



Rocklin Police Department

Message from the Chief by Mark Siemens

Signs of a distressed economy often include increases in criminal activity. Rocklin is not immune from the effects of the current economic situation, and over the past year we too have seen increases in some crime categories. But our overall crime rate has still decreased by 5%. Our police officers have boosted their efforts as they hold the line against the prospect of rising crime. As a result, we have seen several crime trends continue downward, especially in the areas of auto theft, violent crime and arson.

Over the past year, Rocklin police officers have increased self-initiated activity in areas like traffic stops, citations issued and field interview cards (FI's by an impressive 32%!). This kind of high profile policing is a proven deterrent to criminal activity, and also has the positive side effect of reducing vehicle collisions. Meanwhile, we're experiencing an increasing workload in the form of rising po-

lice calls-for-service, and more 911 and cellular 911 calls.

We continue to have exceptional success in apprehending criminals as they are trying to leave the scene of the crime. Our officers and dispatchers know their beat, they know the City and its areas of ingress and egress, and they do a great job communicating and anticipating the movements of criminals as they try to leave the area.

Our patrol officers, detectives and CSI personnel pay meticulous attention to crime scene evidence collection and analysis, evidence processing and case follow up, which time after time has led to the identification and arrest of the suspect. In this area, we maintain an exceptional level of service and attention to detail. We "investigate crimes" rather than "take reports" and we consider all levels of criminal activity unacceptable in Rocklin. For that,

our residents benefit from safer neighborhoods while Rocklin PD enjoys an outstanding reputation in the region for solving crimes and cooperating with other jurisdictions.

The impact of your effort shows in the reduced crime rate, even in the face of a challenging economy and an increasing workload. I know that our officers and staff continue to work hard to protect the citizens of Rocklin and maintain the quality of life that many of us have come to appreciate so much.



Captain's Corner, By Ron Lawrence and Dan Ruden

Nice goat! The 2009 goatee contest has come to a successful conclusion, and the judges have awarded the winners their due place in goatee history, as well as relinquished the Administrative parking spaces to the award-winning mugs to do with as they please. Jeff Amado won *Best-shaped* with honorable mention to 2nd place winner Terry Roide, Andre Booker won *Most-Debonair* and honorable mention to 2nd place winner Scott Horrillo, Bob Martin won *Most-Distinguished* with honorable mention to 2nd place winner Steve Ortmann, and Brian Krause won *Most Terrier-Like* (your guess is as good as mine) with honorable mention to 2nd

place winner Melissa Murphy for her submitted, albeit altered photograph. Additionally, a surprise category of "*Most-Improved*" was awarded to Terry Roide, for his improvement over last years "*Most-Sparse*" win. Congratulations to the winners and our biggest gratitude goes to the judges, who undoubtedly got bribed, paid-off, threatened and probably had many other means of undue influence placed upon them.

We closed out 2008 with the annual Halloween Costume contest/bar-b-que, the annual Holiday Decorating Contest and the kick-off of the goatee contest from December to February, so what's next on the agenda for

2009? Last year a large number of police and fire employees participated in the St. Baldrick's event held in the spring, to support fundraising efforts for the education, research and awareness of childhood cancer. The St. Baldrick's Foundation has raised over \$50 million dollars over the past nine years, and shaved more than 72,000 heads, at least nine of which belong to Rocklin PD employees. This year the St. Baldrick's event is again being held at the Westfield Galleria Shopping Mall, on March 14th, and I know of at least one participant from the Police Department contributing their hair for this worthy cause. It proved to be a great team-building event for our members

last year, although Gil's photograph would indicate he was a little skeptical. What do you have to lose, besides your hair? Or if not your hair, perhaps your time to cheer on fellow police employees and show your support! It should be a fun event, and one worthy of a bald noggin or your time and support. Hope to see you at the hair cutting line!



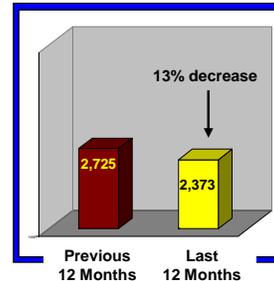
New Ordinance Results in Fewer False Alarms, by Aaron Robertson

Police false alarm calls dropped fifteen percent since the Rocklin City Council passed a new ordinance that became law on April 11th, 2008. The new ordinance established a permitting process for residences and businesses that operate an alarm in the City of Rocklin and civil penalties for excessive false alarms. In 1995, the City Council established a fee for excessive false alarms, yet no ordinance existed to define false alarms, regulate the use of alarm systems, or require permits for alarms. "The absence of an alarm

ordinance caused unnecessary use of staffing and resources and limited proactive enforcement by officers," said Chief Siemens.

Siemens added, "This new alarm program is having the effect we hoped it would have, by decreasing the time and energy dispatchers and officers spend responding to false alarms." Over the past twenty four months, alarm calls decreased from 2,725 incidents to 2,373, a thirteen percent decline. This decrease translates to 176 less hours responding to alarms.

Since the alarm passed in April, 1,510 residents applied for and received permits. These permits make it easier to identify users when false alarms occur.



Scheduling: A Thing of Intense Beauty, by Lt. Lon Milka

The Rest of the Story

How do you schedule 27 patrol officers onto 24 hour, 7 day-a-week shifts, and ensure that you the right number of officers where and when you need them? How does one make a patrol schedule? The task can be bit daunting, but when you know the logic behind it, it's quite easy to understand how we get from the *need to the deed*.

Before one puts pencil to paper to start the shift signup process, an

in-depth analysis of calls for service over many months is done by our Administrative Analyst Aaron Robertson and 7 charts are created. Each chart represents a day of the week and then those are divided into 24 segments. Each segment represents calls for service for each hour of the day. Easy to read charts tell all; peak-hour calls for service and, conversely, low-hour calls for service. Based upon these facts we have now identified the busiest time(s) of each day. We combine the

calls-for-service information with input from the shift sergeants of the "super-cool Operations Division", and make some adjustments for the types of calls that typically occur during certain times (e.g. nights, weekends). From this process a Minimum Staffing Guideline is created.

Finally, based upon this combination of measurable data and experienced feedback, a shift signup is created dividing the available personnel between

teams that include day shift, grave shift, and relief shifts. The fun really begins upon plugging in annual vacations, incidental time off, sick/injured leave, and training! That's a short explanation of how the schedule is created, and now you know *the rest of the story*.



"The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it."

-Sir Robert Peel, England's Pioneer of Modern Policing

Volunteers on the Lookout, by Mike Nottoli

On February 10, 2009, several Rocklin Police Volunteers began assisting Code Enforcement Officer Rick Southern with city-wide code enforcement duties. Their primary role is to observe and report unlawful private property nuisance violations covered in Rocklin Municipal Code Section 8.04.020. These nuisances include trash accumulation, dismantled vehicles, broken windows, discarded furniture and appliances, and other violations that create blight, diminish neighborhood appearance, and lower property values.

These volunteers will be working in pairs in marked Volunteer vehicles, and will be patrolling during daytime hours only. Each Code En-

forcement Volunteer has been patrol-trained and has completed a field training program. They will be methodically and systematically covering the entire city starting in reporting area 45 near the police station and working outward from there. There is a large laminated City of Rocklin map in the volunteer work area that they will systematically "mark off" as areas are completed.

These volunteers will not be contacting citizens, issuing citations, knocking on doors, etc. When they observe a violation of the ordinance, they will fill out a report to document the situa-

tion. Each report then gets forwarded to Code Enforcement Officer Rick Southern for follow-up. When appropriate, Code Enforcement Volunteers will also be issuing 72-hour warning notices to obviously abandoned or inoperable vehicles on the public roadways. In the event they are needed for a regular patrol assignment such as traffic control or crowd control at a fire, they can temporarily abandon their code enforcement duties to assist.

I would like to commend these volunteers for taking on this assignment, and thank Code Enforcement Officer Rick South-

ern, Volunteer Danielle Bergmooser, and Volunteer Gerald Cavallo for their excellent assistance in helping to get this program started. The Code Enforcement Volunteers are Del Bane, Danielle Bergmooser, Mary Bretting, Gerald Cavallo, Bob Fierro, Louis Gallego, Margaret Gallego, Dennis Grayson, Kym Kemper, Mark Linkiewicz, and Rex Roney. Danielle Bergmooser will be the Volunteer Coordinator in charge of the program, and she will be assisted by Gerald Cavallo.

If you would like more information about this program, please contact me at 625-5416.



January/February External Commendations received

Ofc. Montgomery received a citizen commendation for handling a missing person case. Montgomery was described as being professional and had sincere patience regarding the report and investigation. The citizen stated, *"Officer Montgomery's attitude made the whole process simple and assuring. It is truly an inspiration to have such respect and confidence in the officers that give up their lives to serve and protect. Thank you for making me feel at ease. You're awesome."*

Detective Davis and CSO Regalia received a commendation letter from a family who had been the victims of a residential burglary. The victims wrote in their letter expressing their gratitude for the professional way Detective Davis and CSO Regalia investigated the burglary case.

Ofc. Olivera received a commendation from a disabled and elderly citizen who was unable to unlock the door to her residence during a cold winter night. The citizen drove and found Officer Olivera, who followed her back to her home and assisted her with opening the door. Once inside the residence, Olivera made sure she was safe, that the heat was turned up, and offered her medical assistance (which was declined). He helped her with her oxygen tank, offered and made her a warm beverage and stayed with her until she was completely settled. The disabled, elderly citizen later called the Police Dept. to express her most sincere gratitude for his kind assistance and the "genuine care and concern" that he exhibited. She said that she is lucky to live in a City with such an outstanding member on the Police force.

Two separate "Comment Cards" were received at the PD front counter, commending the Police Department for professional service (no specific employee names mentioned). One was specifically for fingerprinting services being inexpensive, prompt, professional and friendly.

Most Debonair

Most Terrier Like

Goatee Contest Winners

Most Distinguished to Bob Martin who received Chief's parking spot

Most Debonair to Andre Booker who received Captain Ruden's parking spot

Best Shaped to Jeff Amado who received Captain Lawrence's parking spot

Most Terrier-Like to Brian Krause who received Lt Freeman's parking spot

All winners had the choice to keep their goatee for one more month due to being an award winner

Best Shaped

Most Distinguished

