

# ROCKLIN PD NEWS



## Rocklin Police Department

### Message from the Chief by Mark Siemens

#### Hey, Where Are They Going?

The Rocklin Police Department has good success attracting lateral officers from other city and county law enforcement agencies. The majority of our current employees used to work somewhere else. Most came to Rocklin because the department and/or area offered them some type of improvement in their life. We are sure used to laterals coming here, but we are not very comfortable with seasoned officers leaving for another department.

Just recently, a captain shared a note from the suggestion box that said, "We have four officers leaving, yet nobody seems to care or do anything about it. We need to **do something** to keep these excellent officers, not just let them go." The suggestion was given to administration to act on; nice thought, but what could we do? Let's think about it.

Each of the four officers referred to in this suggestion believe that moving to another department will

improve their quality of life; each for different reasons including future opportunities, earning potential and shorter commute. Each has given due consideration to the issue and made a decision, much like the decision to come here originally. Assuming these individuals engaged a decision making process, they would have weighed the pros and cons of leaving this agency and decided that the pros won. I am sure they did not make these decisions lightly as there is always risk in a new job, such as probation, lower seniority, and the stress of a new environment, etc.

So what would we do? Public employment policy and due process does not allow us to throw money at employees or make promises of promotion to keep them from leaving; so all that is left is trying to convince someone not to leave. These individuals believe it is better for their life to work somewhere else; what gives us the right to talk them out of it? I know that it is hard to take that

some of the RPD family wants to leave, they are our friends and they share our memories. Many doors of opportunity open to us during our lifetime. Where we end up depends on which ones we walk through. Although we wish they would not make the decision to leave it is their decision to make.

To the suggestion that we need to *do something*, I agree. We need to support our brother officers who have made a choice to leave, wish them well, and hope for their success in the future.



#### Special Points of Interest

- Message from the Chief
- St. Baldrick's Challenge
- New Officer Introduction
- Goatee Highlights!

### Captain's Corner, by Dan Ruden and Ron Lawrence

Congratulations to the Valentines Day Eve winners of our Department's first goatee contest! **Casey Finney** and **Dave Johnstone** won the category of greyest goatee. **Brandon Olivera** and **Ron Lawrence** share the title for most diabolical, **Terry Roide** and **Lon Milka** won for the sparsest attempt while **Mark Siemens** and **Chris Spurgeon** were bestowed with the coveted "Sasquatch" goatee title. The non-management winners were awarded full use of the admin parking spaces for the next month and also won the right to continue wearing their

award-winning goatee until April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Now that the goatee contest has ended, I urge you to set your sights on the next "hair challenge" event, which is coming March 29<sup>th</sup>. It is **St. Baldrick's Day**. According to the website, [www.stbaldricks.org](http://www.stbaldricks.org), this is the world's biggest volunteer-driven fundraising program for childhood cancer, raising over \$34 million, and shaving more than 46,000 heads. In past years, members of the Rocklin Fire Department have participated in this worthwhile event, held at the Galleria Mall in Roseville. This year, RPOA President **Bart**

**Paduveris** has pledged his participation and invited other police department members to join in. I am taking Bart up on his invitation and I'm challenging all the members of the **Operations Division** to join me. I'm hoping we can show Support Services and the Fire Department how we do things in the Operations Division!

In addition to the money collected for children's cancer research and treatment, hair from the head shaving will be used to create wigs for kids who are undergoing chemotherapy. I can't think of a more worthy cause. So I hope you'll join Bart,

me and all the members of Police Operations at the Roseville Galleria on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Sign up at [www.stbaldricks.org](http://www.stbaldricks.org) and look for the Rocklin Fire/Police Team under the Westfield Galleria at Roseville event. I hope to see you there!



## Burglar All Wet, By Lt. Dave Johnstone

On January 29th, 2008, Roseville Police were investigating a possible burglary in progress when they spotted the male suspect exiting the victim's garage. The suspect jumped into a car, which was driven by a woman, and sped off. After a short pursuit the male suspect exited the vehicle and ran off, jumping over a fence. What the suspect didn't expect was a swimming pool on the other side of the fence. After his short

and unexpected swim the suspect exited the pool and ran off.

Roseville Police requested Rocklin's K-9 Unit to assist them with the search of the suspect. Following the scent of the suspect led Officer Kolaskey and his K-9 partner, Zeus to a nearby neighbor's home. Shortly thereafter Zeus alerted to a garbage can where Officer Kolaskey found the suspect hiding inside.

The wet and smelly suspect, Brandon Sartor of Sacramento, was arrested on suspicion of burglary. On his person was a pair of brass knuckles and a hypodermic syringe. Inside the suspect's vehicle police found a toolbox, a set of tools and a pair of golf shoes. All the items found inside the suspect's vehicle were identified by the victim.

Kudos to the K-9 team of Officer Kolaskey and Zeus for excellent police work, you make us proud!

## Welcome our New Officer!

Please welcome our newest police officer, Randy Law. Randy comes to Rocklin as a lateral police officer from the Burbank Airport Police Department, where he was assigned to Patrol Division and was a Field Training Officer for the past three years.

Prior to getting into law enforcement, Randy was in the computer industry. He grew up in the Sacramento area and has family who still live in the region. Randy earned a Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice from Sacramento State University.

Randy began working at Rocklin PD on Monday, February 11, and was sworn in at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Welcome aboard Officer Law!

## Investigations Unit Nabs ORC, by Sgt. Scott Horrillo

On January 29th, 2008, an alert Long's Drugs Loss Prevention Manager (RPD Volunteer Dave Kemp) observed three males and one female acting suspicious inside the Stanford Ranch Road Long's Drugs. He saw the suspicious group while in the store and recognized their behavior as being consistent with an Organized Retail Crime (ORC) gang. Although, the ORC gang left Long's without taking any merchandise, Dave Kemp retained the information about this groups identity. Later, Kemp noticed the same ORC gang exit the Sunset Blvd Safeway Store. Kemp contacted Detective Chris Spurgeon and shared what he observed. Detective Spurgeon learned the ORC

gang Kemp saw was responsible for three commercial burglaries in Rocklin in one week. During this investigation the same ORC gang came back to Rocklin and committed two more commercial burglaries.

Detective Spurgeon began working with Safeway's ORC Investigations Unit. Through this joint investigation detectives gathered enough information for Detective Spurgeon and Corporal Handley to obtain three search warrants. One of the search warrants located over 800 packages of stolen powdered baby formula. The investigation also led to the identification of the five individuals that

made up this ORC gang. The Investigations unit arrested four of the individuals and booked them into the Placer County Jail. The fifth individual was already in custody in Santa Clara County on ORC gang related charges.

The evidence against this gang increased when CSO Boccoleri located fingerprints belonging to the gang members on a sampling of the stolen baby formula packages. The investigation also revealed this ORC gang was responsible for 12 commercial burglaries at Safeway Stores in Placer County (five of which occurred in Rocklin) with a total loss of over \$14,000.

This was a very complicated investigation and it took assistance from both public and private outside agencies to apprehend these gang members. The Safeway Investigators described this gang as being one of the most active ORC gangs in Northern California. GREAT JOB!



## RPD Implements First Rapid Deployment Team, By Lt. Dave Johnstone

Rocklin Police recently tested for and implemented the Department's first Rapid Deployment Team (RDT). Several qualified officers tested for the position; unfortunately, we were only able to fill 8 positions at this time. Congratulations to the following individuals:

Sergeant Trent Jewell (Team Supervisor)

Corporal Jason Westgate (Assistant Team Supervisor)

Detective Brad Alford

Officer Andre Booker

Corporal Eric Dollar

Officer Jeff Kolaskey

Officer Adrian Passadore

Officer Jerry Seawell



The RDT will be available for SWAT call-outs and will be placed in a perimeter position allowing the SWAT team to better utilize their resources. The RDT will receive direction from the SWAT team leader and incident commander to augment their efforts during a critical incident.

Team members will receive basic perimeter training and training on how to organize, deploy, and perform an emergency hostage rescue (i.e. active shooter scenarios).

The RDT's primary function is to relieve SWAT team members and patrol officers from perimeter positions as the RDT members arrive on scene. The RDT allows the initially responding patrol officers to return to the field and handle the inevitable backlog of calls for service that have gone unanswered while the critical incident unfolded. The RDT enables the Department to better utilize resources during a critical incident, while maintaining the integrity of regular patrol functions.

## Rocklin Police Department Continues Minor Decoy Program, by Lt. Dave Johnstone

In September 2006, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) in conjunction with the State Office of Traffic Safety awarded Rocklin Police Department \$15,000.00 to implement a Minor Decoy program to reduce the number of businesses which sell alcohol unlawfully to minors and reduce youth access to alcohol.

When the Rocklin Police Department conducted its first Minor Decoy Operation in November 2006, the violation rate of retail establishments selling alcohol unlawfully to minors was as high as 25%. That rate fell to 20% following another operation conducted in December, 2006. However, with the continued efforts of

the Rocklin Police Department and ABC the last three operations have resulted in not one of the targeted retail businesses selling alcohol to minors. Businesses in compliance with the law received a letter from the Rocklin Police Department commending them for their diligence.

The Minor Decoy Program allows law enforcement agencies and the ABC to use persons under 20 years of age as decoys for the purpose of purchasing alcoholic beverages from licensed premises. The use of underage decoys to check whether licensees are selling alcohol to minor's shows a dramatic drop in the illegal activity when the minor decoy program

is repeatedly used. Statistics have shown that young people under the age of 21 have a higher rate of drunken driving fatalities than the general adult population.

Minor Decoy operations have been conducted by law enforcement throughout the state since the 1980's. When the program first begun, the violation rate of retail establishments selling alcohol to minors was as high as 40 to 50 percent. When conducted on a routine basis, the rate had dropped in some cities as low as 10 percent or even below.

Persons who sell alcohol to a minor face a minimum fine of

\$250.00, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the alcoholic beverage license of the business. That may include a suspension of the license, or the permanent revocation of the license.



## Education and Enforcement, by Bob Martin, Traffic Sergeant

Sunset Blvd is a busy street and usually leads other streets with the most accidents in Rocklin. Many of the accidents are caused



by motorists not obeying the speed limit, traffic control signals, or official traffic control signs. In an effort to reduce accidents along this roadway, the traffic unit brought out their own unofficial traffic control sign and sign holder, Officer Amado. Jeff did say this experience could catapult his side job as a sign twirler.

Fifteen citations were issued, one citation was for 118947

Health and Safety Code for smoking in a vehicle with minors and one vehicle was towed. These citations were issued while working the no right turn



on red at the corner of Springview and Sunset Blvd. Motorists were asked if they saw the three official signs or the person standing near the corner assisting us with a no right turn on red sign. Most responses given by motorists were that they did not see the signs and one thought the person holding the sign was selling something.

### Help Wanted!

#### Current Police Department Recruitments:

**Police Trainee:** (Final filing date FEB. 20, 2008) Salary - \$3,899 a month. The Police Officer Trainee is an entry level, non-sworn training position. Those hired will attend a Police Academy in July 2008 (fees and expenses paid by the City) and must satisfactorily graduate. Upon successful completion of the academy, the Police Trainee will become a sworn Police Officer.

**Police Officer Academy Graduate:** (Final filing date FEB 20, 2008) Salary - \$4,874 - \$6,220 monthly

(Up to with additional incentives) **\$7,429** (Plus excellent benefits package)

Completion of the 12th grade; 30 college units (in addition to those earned at the academy) desirable; graduate of a POST approved California Peace Officer Academy and twenty-one years old by date of appointment, and possess a valid California driver's license.

**Public Safety Dispatcher I:** (Continuous recruitment) Salary range - \$3,491 - \$4,456 (Plus excellent benefits package)

One (1) year of public safety dispatch experience.

Possession of a POST Public Safety Dispatcher Certificate or equivalent.

**Public safety Dispatcher II:** (Continuous recruitment) Salary range - \$3,763 - \$4,804 (Plus excellent benefits package)

Two (2) years of public safety dispatch experience. Additional specialized training in dispatching, records management, or a related field is desirable

Possession of a POST Public Safety Dispatcher Certificate or equivalent

Possession of an Emergency Medical Dispatch Certificate

**Lateral Police Officer:** (Continuous recruitment) Salary range is \$4,874 - \$6,220/Month (applicant can earn a maximum of \$7,429/Month with additional incentives). Plus excellent benefits package.

