



Rocklin Police Department

Newsletter

July 2009



Rocklin Police Department

Vol 4 Issue 7

Message from the Chief by Mark Siemens

Great Work Recognized

All too often we read in the press about police officers who have done something wrong. Well, here in Rocklin we have a lot of department members doing things right. This month the Placer County Law Enforcement Executive Agency Awards Committee will consider nominations for the 2008/2009 annual awards. We have the largest number of Rocklin employees nominated that I can recall.

This year, four officers have been nominated for Silver Medals of Honor, one for a Bronze Medal of Honor, four employees for Distinguished Service Commendation and one for Volunteer Recognition. We will find out how many of the nominees get awards this November at the ceremony.

Not all recognition comes from critical events or major cases. During 2008, we received 31 commendations from the public and 34 internal commendations. Most of these are for employees who do a great job on routine cases and go the extra mile. I enjoy reading these positive comments that come across my desk. Each month these commendations are posted on the department bulletin board.

It is great to work with so many dedicated and hard working individuals. It is also great to have an opportunity to recognize the great job so many of you do.



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



Captains Corner, by Dan Ruden and Ron Lawrence

RATS IN ADMIN?



Here's something we'll bet you didn't know: There are a bunch of rats in Police Administration! These large and noisy rodents with their beady little eyes have been creeping around at all hours of the day and night creating anxiety and apprehension for our employees. No, we're not talking about the administrators! These are actual rats who have taken up residence in the ceiling above the offices of Lisa and the Captains, and they stubbornly will not leave. Several attempts to get these vermin to vacate have been mostly unsuccessful, including:



1. The Professional Standards Unit issued a strongly worded memorandum giving the rats 3 days notice to vacate - it was ignored.
2. The Rats were invited to a barbeque at Captain Lawrence's house. Normally this is all it takes to clear a room, but they did not flee. In fact, they showed up wearing little leisure suits.
3. Played "Captain & Tennille" songs into the ceiling all night - no effect.

4. Played AC/DC songs into the ceiling all night - nothing.
5. Asked rats to participate in a Mandatory Time Off (MTO) Program - they refused, citing their contract.
6. Left rat traps smeared with peanut butter in ceiling - Preliminary Score: Chief (1), Rats (0)



Rocklin Detectives Arrest Internet Predator, by Sgt. Knox

For some time, one of our fine officers, Detective Spurgeon, has been investigating a suspect, Steven Elliot, a 39 year-old from Grass Valley, for using the internet to sexually exploit children. These cases are extremely tedious and require hours upon hours of research and investigation to gather the evidence necessary for a solid arrest.

This investigation was prompted when an alert mother intercepted inappropriate text messages being sent to her daughter. Steven Elliot, who had been misrepresenting himself as a teenage boy, was apparently contacting several female juveniles via the internet. Elliot used social networking sites such

as MySpace or Facebook to convince the juveniles of his purported identity, and entice them to send digital photographs of the girls wearing only their underwear.

Detective Spurgeon, a computer forensics expert, used his internet prowess to track down and reveal the true identity of the suspect in this case. Spurgeon, along with Detective Sergeant Horrillo, Detective Alford, Detective Davis, and Detective Farrulla, responded to Grass Valley with multiple search warrants in hand. Aided by the Grass Valley Police Department, and their SWAT team, the warrants were served in multiple locations and Elliot was ultimately arrested inside his home. In

addition to his arrest, five computers were seized.

This investigation is still underway, and there is already an overwhelming amount of digital evidence that has been recovered in this case. During his diligent investigation, Detective Spurgeon received information that Steven Elliot used to attend high-school aged parties in Rocklin between the years of 1999 and 2003. This may be the reason why he victimized and preyed on Rocklin teenage girls.

There are several lessons that can be learned from this case.

- Use caution when making social connections on the internet
- Never divulge personal or sensitive information to strangers
- If you're a parent, stay informed of your child's internet activity

Perhaps the most poignant lesson learned is actually one for the criminals who are using the internet for other than legal purposes, and that is to be aware and be warned of the Rocklin Police Department's countermeasure—Detective Spurgeon!

Busted! By Sgt. Richardson

On July 6th Rocklin Police Department received a report of an automobile burglary that occurred within the last 15 minutes at Lone-tree Park. CSO Salazar and RPD Officers responded to investigate. CSO Salazar determined that no suspects or suspect vehicle had been seen.

The victim's credit cards had been stolen (along with her purse). Since suspects often immediately use stolen credit cards, CSO Salazar assisted the victim in obtaining

telephone numbers for the banks so the victim could quickly report the credit cards as stolen. The victim was informed that one of the stolen credit cards had just been used in Sacramento County by someone purchasing a massage. Sacramento County deputies responded and arrested the suspect mid-massage. Nice work Myra!

There are many other stories of excellent work by the employees at the Rocklin PD. This is just one

example of the good work that is being done by all. It would take much more space than I have been allocated to adequately list all that you do.

I want to thank all of you that assist our patrol staff. All employees at the RPD either directly or indirectly assist in our providing an outstanding level of service to the community of Rocklin.



Honest Teenager Aids One of Our Own, by Sgt. Knox

A service call of the report of lost property, or a lost property turned theft, is all too familiar to us here at the police department. It is very rare to hear of lost property being recovered these days, especially with the shaky economy.

Recently, Rocklin Police Volunteer Norma Snyder, discovered that honesty is alive and well in the youth of today. Norma arrived home one day after doing some shopping, only to find that she

had forgot her purse in a shopping cart. While responding back to the store, she was not optimistic that the purse would still be there. She was right. As it turns out, a sixteen year-old boy, who was visiting his grandmother from the bay area, found the purse and brought it to the police department. Nothing was missing, not even the large sum of cash recently put in Norma's purse after a trip to the bank.

The humble teen did not leave his name,

but quietly slipped out of the police department lobby after doing the right thing. Norma, who stated that, "You don't find many honest people," wanted to find the young man and thank him. Norma said the deed was worthy of a reward. A story was published in the Sacramento Bee, and the teenager's grandmother heard about it. The teenager's identity is no longer a mystery and this feel-good story will hopefully inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

External Commendations

Corporal Westgate stopped a citizen for expired registration and issued him a citation. The citizen emailed expressing that Corporal Westgate handled the "situation very professional and personally at the same time." He stated that Corporal Westgate has a "quality" that he "appreciates in an officer."

Records Clerk Lilly Sifuentes received a commendation (via comment card) after a citizen contact at the front counter. The citizen commented that Lilly is "always so professional and friendly. Keep up the good job, we appreciate you."

Dispatch Supervisor Gibson, Dispatcher Miller, Dispatcher Campoy, and Crime Analyst/Dispatcher Smith all received kudos on a job well done from Battalion Chief Snyder. The quaternary group worked extremely well as a team and received praise for how efficient and professional they were while handling multiple fire type calls at one time. In addition to handling communications during a major structure fire, the team managed to send out the appropriate fire apparatus to multiple fireworks complaints without losing track of the long list of resources assigned.

Old Training Methods Stand the Test of Time, by Sgt Knox

The concept of using daily training bulletins in the law enforcement field is not entirely new. In fact, *Daily Training Bulletin of the Los Angeles Police Department*, was published in 1954. The book, which featured bulletins numbered 1-173, was used by Patrol Sergeants at briefing to develop police personnel. The program was so well received that patrol briefings were increased from 15 minutes long to 30 minutes long.

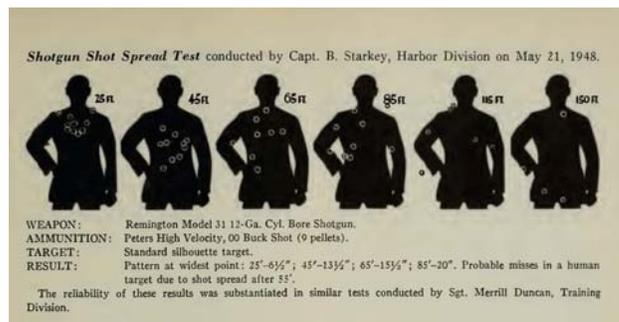
As a progressive organization we are constantly looking for new ways to increase our momentum towards professional development. I think we have found the educational catalyst we have been looking for. The Rocklin Police Daily Training Bulletins, developed by Lexipol and our Professional Standards Unit, were unveiled as our newest educational tool in the be-

ginning of July. Not only will these bulletins keep us informed of current case law trends, but they will also sharpen our knowledge of current policies and procedures.

I realize that change in the workplace can be difficult sometimes. I, like you, have wondered when the long list of demands placed on us will subside—only to find the list increasing with my tenure in this profession. With that in mind, I reflect back on to my academy days. Throughout the academy training, we were told that we were in a fishbowl—and everyone was watching us. The public has placed a great deal of trust in us as their public safety professionals, and our training routine is an investment impervious to many things—including a bad economy.

I have spoken with some of our employees and learned that they really enjoy the DTBs. Other employees I talked to did not mind the process, but found themselves wanting to navigate to the true or false question without actually reading the material. Whichever path

you choose, remember that the path of convenience will never leave you as rich as the path of understanding. These bulletins are designed to improve your power of reasoning, and in this business, knowledge is power.



This is an illustration from the original Daily Training Bulletin of the Los Angeles Police Department. Technology is grand, but the fundamentals of training and basic police work will never change.