

ROCKLIN PD NEWS



Rocklin Police Department

Message from the Chief by Mark Siemens

Feeling Lucky?

St Patrick's Day is upon us bringing the season of luck, leprechauns, and pots of gold. For the last several months thieves and burglars have believed they could get lucky in Rocklin. We have experienced about 75 more burglaries and 30 more thefts in the past year compared to the prior year. In fact, some of the Sacramento criminals recently interviewed related that they believe South Placer is the end of the rainbow because people leave their cars and houses unlocked.

Fortunately, we have been very lucky ourselves in catching these felonious shoppers. Just a couple of weeks ago we ran right into a couple of them (literally). Fortunately, an alert citizen, who happened to be awake at 3 am,

phoned our dispatchers when he saw two young men enter a garage in his neighborhood. The caller stayed on the line and described the actions of the burglars as they drove away in the neighbor's car. The burglars, turned car thieves, sped away only to run head-on into a responding Rocklin officer.

This is not the only luck we have had, time after time, our patrol officers have run upon in-progress crimes through alert patrol tactics, quick response to suspicious persons and vehicles, and just plain tenacity. Our detectives have followed up on many of these cases to get the rest of the story, which usually includes more suspects and recovered property. I can only imagine what the numbers would be if all of you were not so successful.

We know that property crime is bound to increase during these hard economic times. I know that you are working hard to stop these thieves and the entire community appreciates your work, as do I. Now if we can just get our citizens to close their garage doors, lock their cars and secure their property, we could stop being the city where thieves believe they could get lucky.



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Captains Corner, by Dan Ruden and Ron Lawrence

"Who Loves Ya, Baby?"

As I return to work after a few days out of town, I've begun to see the aftermath of Saturday's "St. Baldrick's Day" event. I noticed that several of our officers are walking around with the freshly shorn heads. **Corporal Dollar, Corporal Paduveris, Officer Farulla, Officer Finney, Officer Lewis, Officer Passadore, Sgt. Roide** and even **Captain Lawrence** all had their heads shaved in support of kids who are fighting childhood cancer. St. Baldrick's is the world's largest volunteer-driven fundraising event for

childhood cancer research (www.stbaldricks.org). Last year, St. Baldrick's events generated almost \$17.5 million dollars, and the Westfield Galleria at Roseville event made the organization's Top Teams List, raising an incredible \$179,010. The Rocklin Police / Fire team was part of that noteworthy effort. The results for 2009 have not yet been tallied, but I'm hopeful you've beaten last year's total. Seeing these bald heads walking around the PD, while quite disturbing in some cases, is still a great reminder of how our employees have again

stepped up to help those who need us the most. Isn't this why we got into police work in the first place?



Editor's Note for readers under 30

Kojak (1973 series) is an [American](#) television series starring [Telly Savalas](#) as the eponymous, bald [New York City Police Department Detective Lieutenant](#) Theo Kojak. It aired from October 24, 1973 to March 18, 1978 on [CBS](#). It took the time slot of the popular [Cannon](#) series, which was moved one hour earlier. Kojak's [Greek](#) heritage, shared by actor Savalas, was prominently featured in the series. Known for his catch phrase "Who Loves Ya, Baby?" and his trademark lollipop.

New Court Liaison Goes 10-8! by Captain Ron Lawrence

Traffic Court in Placer County has a new employee to serve as our court liaison. Judy Voegeli, is a part-time employee with the County and is



assigned to the Traffic Court at the Santucci Justice Center. Judy's #1 goal is to save Cities and the County money by ensuring traffic court subpoenas are issued for court dates when officers are on-duty as much as possible, and to provide a much needed convenience to officers who are required to testify in court. One of the many benefits her duties will bring to Rocklin officers is to serve as a resource for issuing subpoenas around pre-planned vacation schedules, training schedules and

unforeseen emergencies. Planned vacations and time off is important to our employees and this new program will allow the court liaison to coordinate schedules to benefit our officers. Police supervisors now have an immediate contact at the Traffic Court to submit vacation schedules and request changes to accommodate Department training. When the Court Liaison program was initially proposed in 2007, Rocklin spent approximately \$34,377 in overtime money for traffic court

subpoenas. Since the program was initiated the City of Roseville has reported saving approximately 36% in overtime costs associated with traffic court, saving Roseville an estimated \$73,423 during the first seven months Judy has been the Traffic Court Liaison. Judy is excited about working with officers at Rocklin PD, and she hopes if you see her around the courts, you'll stop by and say hi!

Officer Paxton Honored at MADD Ceremony by Capt. Dan Ruden

On March 10th, Officer Jeff Paxton received recognition from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for his, "life saving contributions to remove drunk drivers from Placer County's roadways." Officer Paxton was presented with a plaque, a certificate and a "23152" pin for his exemplary participation in the Placer County Avoid the 7 DUI Enforcement Campaign.

At the recognition luncheon, hosted by Elk Grove PD and sponsored by MADD and OTS, officers who demonstrated exemplary DUI enforcement in Sacramento, Placer and Yolo County Avoid campaigns were honored for their life-saving impact on impaired driving in the region. OTS Funds Avoid campaigns throughout California by providing special grants to law enforcement agencies for anti-DUI efforts. The pre-

senters at the event included Dr. David Manning, Regional Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Chris Murphy, Director of OTS and the MADD California State Executive Director, Matthias Mendezona. Congratulations Officer Paxton and thank you for your efforts to stop DUI in Placer County!



Graveyard Officers Save Two from Certain Death by Lt. Lon Milka

The night of February 25th could have been tragic for 2 Rocklin-residing *Carassius gibelio* had it not been for the quick thinking of two officers working weekday graveyard shift.

The tank mates had been goldfish friends and Rocklin residents years before the unsettling events of that night. Reports state that the fish owner & care-taker had destroyed the aquarium abode prior to police being called. Upon arrival, Offi-

cers Jeff Kolaskey & Mike Gandy leaped into action and assessed the magnitude of the situation: two buddies, out of their element, no... *substance*, and barely clinging to life on the

floor of the singlewide.

Jeff made a mad dash to fish a temporary, yet suitable, home. The glass pitcher worked just fine. While rushing to fill the new home with

the life-sustaining *substance*, Mike grabbed the two buddies who were remarkably responsive to his words of encouragement – after all, how long had they been displaced? Without hesitation, he re-homed the goldfish.



Quick thinking and a coordinated effort saved the two little lives on that night. Way to go Jeff and Mike!

War Veterans recognize Police Veteran by Captain Ron Lawrence



Congratulations go to Officer Brandon Olivera, who was recognized by the Rocklin Veteran's of Foreign Wars as their 2008 honoree for distinguished service to the community. On February 24th, at the Rocklin Community Center, Brandon was recognized for his tremendous efforts in fighting illegal drugs in Rocklin and throughout Placer County during his five year tenure with the Special Investigations Unit. Brandon's family was present to help him receive this prestigious award as were several members of his patrol team. The V.F.W. served dinner and desert to all in attendance and put on a very nice presentation. Great job Brandon!



ACO's are A-OK! by Lt. Lon Milka

Since the start of my oversight of the Animal Control Unit within the nifty Operation's Division, I have learned quite a bit about the workings of a unit that few know about. Learning the legal ramifications of its actions and the needs of the unit were somewhat daunting at first but with the help of our Animal Control Officers (ACO's) Stephanie Mahlberg and Merae Riley, the learning curve could be better characterized as a learning slider or learning fastball.

So, what are of duties of these unsung champions known as ACO's? ACO's are tasked to enforce city and state ordinances and laws governing the care and keeping of animals. They answer officer and citizen questions about animals and provide information about animal control services, policies, and procedures. They assist officers on search warrants. Our ACO's investigate reports and complaints of stray, dangerous,

unwanted and improperly controlled or maintained animals and take appropriate action. They patrol city streets and parks watching for stray or abandoned animals and dogs off leash. They impound, collect, and transport animals as necessary to the Placer County Animal Shelter. Additionally they take injured animals to a veterinarian for proper care. Our ACO's remove dead animals from the city and transport the carcasses to the county shelter. They enforce City animal control and licensing laws, and issue citations for violations of

animal control and licensing ordinances. As a result they have to testify in court. Whew! And if that wasn't enough... when they are on the streets, they are extra eyes for the department. Recently, Stephanie and Merae both have helped in different apprehensions of criminals prowling the streets of Rocklin.

Along with the long job description, our ACO's know the various breeds of domestic animals and routinely have to deal with wild animals. Recently, Merae res-

cued an Iguana from a tree and Stephanie and Merae are preparing for snake season. They are quite familiar with wild turkeys in Stanford Ranch, Canada Geese on Rocklin Road and deer all over the city.

Stephanie and Merae have helped me understand canine post-seizure hearings per Penal Code section 597.1 and rabies quarantines per Code of Regulations Title 17.

I believe that the City of Rocklin employs two of the hardest working and dedicated ACO's anywhere. They are great at what they do and please let them know that you appreciate their work effort.

Thanks to Stephanie and Merae for doing a fantastic job!



Rocklin Service Awards

by Capt Ron Lawrence

Recognizing dedicated employees for the City of Rocklin, City Manager Carlos Urrutia, accompanied by Vice Mayor Scott Yuill, presented awards at the fifteenth annual City Service Awards luncheon to those employees who have had service with the City of Rocklin through December 31, 2008, for 5, 10, 15, 20, and even 30 years! A total of 33 City employees were recognized, the longest being Michele Young with the Community Services Department, who has served the City of Rocklin for an amazing 30 years! Lunch was provided by the City, while we enjoyed watching eleven employees of the Police Department recognized for their dedicated service to the City of Rocklin.

20 Years

Sgt Tom Dwyer

15 years

Ofc. Jeff Amado

10 years

Ofc. Brandon Olivera

Ofc. Steve Ortmann

5 years

CSO Sara Bocoleri

PSD Michelle Buckland

Sgt Chad Butler

Ofc. Dan Groff

Cpl. Anthony Handley

Sgt Trent Jewell

Cpl Bart Paduveris

