

ROCKLIN PD NEWS



Rocklin Police Department

Message from the Chief by Mark Siemens

We Are Almost There

Staff members are working feverishly to complete the May 1, 2007 version of the Rocklin Police Department Manual. This version has an incorporated procedure manual with attachments for evidence, report writing, and a variety of other key processes. These policies and procedures answer what we do and how we do critical police activities. Our policy and procedure manuals were reviewed and rewritten as part of the CALEA self assessment process. It was surprising how many issues identified in CALEA standards did not have established procedures.

Next month, the new manuals will be rolled out to all personnel. All personnel will be assigned time to become familiar with key sections of these manuals. This familiarization process will include training on how to search and view computer-based manuals effectively.

The Policy and Procedure Manuals are living documents. These manuals are not meant to be the last word in how we do things, but the way we do things right now. We have the ability to change our procedures when necessary. We will be reviewing these policies at least annually. We

know the person closest to the actual job can often have the best input on how to do the job effectively. With that in mind, I ask each of you to review our policies and procedures. Please feel free to make suggestions and ask questions. The more we examine how we do things the more refined we will become.



Special Points of Interest

- Message from the Chief
- M.A.D.D. Hero Award
- Welcome New Employees
- Traffic on the High Seas

Captains' Corner by Dan Ruden and Ron Lawrence

Congratulations to Lieutenant Mike Freeman, and Sergeant Chad Butler! Both are assuming acting positions until their permanent promotions effective May 1st. Also congratulations to soon-to-be Corporal Rich Cabana, who will assume his new assignment effective May 1st.

The recent lieutenant and sergeant promotional processes, and specialty assignment of corporal is behind us now, and so is the anxiety for those who participated in the process. All of the candidates deserve a big round of applause, because each one did a tremendous amount of studying and preparing themselves for the various stages. There were five initial applicants for lieutenant, six applicants for sergeant and seven applicants for corporal. We continue to be impressed with the

level of experience and high-caliber of talent we have in our organization at all levels, and we look forward to the future evolution of the Rocklin Police Department.

Looking towards the future of our organization we would pose to you a simple question: *If not YOU, then WHO?* Succession planning is pivotal for an organization to sustain long-term excellence. Building leaders from within the Department is essential to maintaining organizational and individual growth. There certainly are things that administration is doing to foster succession planning, such as the leadership reading group the Chief has established to collaboratively discuss various leadership/management books, assigning personnel to new or unique assignments broadening

their scope of experience, the Lominger 360-degree feedback process and conducting individual coaching sessions. There are also a lot of things you as a motivated employee can do to gain professional growth and bolster your career. Working towards a college education is one of the prerequisites for a lieutenant position for example, and there are a lot of online or extended education schools available which cater to working professionals.

The future here at Rocklin PD is in your hands and that includes everyone. It's up to you how you choose to map out your career. Promotion is not a path for everyone, but professional development is essential for all of us. Don't let your career slip by you. Opportunities for promotion will

continue to arise. Take advantage of training or specialty assignments, stop waiting to further your education and just get it started, and get involved in the organization! (Be a shepherd, not a sheep).



"A college degree won't make a good cop. A college degree makes a good cop better."

**Chief Gary Leonard
(Retired)**

M.A.D.D. Hero Award by Staff

Officer Jason Westgate received the MADD Hero on Award April 7 from the California State MADD Organization. The event was held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento. Pictured here with his wife, Melissa, Jason received a plaque and a 23152 pin in recognition for making a total of 76 DUI arrests last year. Captain Dan Ruden was present to accept a separate departmental plaque from MADD in recognition of Jason's outstanding efforts.

Congratulations, Jason!



Community Policing—It Works! by Corporal Jamie Knox

As some of you know, the Safeway grocery store on Sunset Boulevard used to be a prime target for liquor thieves. The suspects generally were juveniles, and a majority of the thefts occurred during weekend graveyard hours. Officers learned through their investigations that word on the street (and high schools) labeled Safeway as an easy target for alcohol theft. Through innovative patrol techniques, Rocklin Police Officers and Rocklin Police Volunteers worked together to deter these crimes. By educating Safeway employees on reporting techniques, parking a patrol car in front of the store as a deterrent, and high profile patrolling,

there was an immediate reduction in alcohol related thefts at that store.

After our victory at Safeway, a new pattern emerged elsewhere in town. Throughout November of 2006 and January of 2007, there was a sharp increase in calls for service at the Albertsons on Stanford Ranch Road. A majority of the calls were juvenile related and several alcohol theft reports were filed with the police department. Once again, we learned that word on the street now labeled Albertsons as the easy target for stealing alcohol.

The weekend graveyard team noticed that there were no secu-

rity caps on the hard alcohol bottles in the liquor aisle of the store. We worked with the store manager and (now former) Albertsons Loss Prevention Specialist Dave Kemp to remedy the situation. Dave Kemp, also a Rocklin Police Volunteer, put the pressure on Albertsons to get the security devices in place and it was done virtually over night. Way to go Dave! Other Rocklin Police Volunteers, who tirelessly give so much of their time to us and the community, were also instrumental in this success story. Their patrol efforts along with the diligence of Rocklin Police Officers reduced this problem dramatically over the

last two months. Since the security devices were installed, and the collaborative efforts of those mentioned, there has only been one alcohol theft from Albertsons—and the suspects were adult males most likely from Sacramento County. Our calls for service at Albertsons have also declined significantly.

As summertime approaches, we will probably see another surge of alcohol thefts somewhere in the city. It will be yet another opportunity for a success story in Community Oriented Policing.

Welcome New Employees by Lt. Mike Freeman

We are excited to announce the hiring of three new employees to the Police Department. The first, Public Safety Dispatcher Nina Bonnici is a lateral from the City of Placerville Police Department, where she has worked as a dispatcher for the past six years. Nina is excited about her transition to Rocklin and joining our family. She began work on Monday, April 9th, just in time for National Tele-Communicators Week!



Greg Cowart is being hired as the department's second part-time police officer. Greg began his law enforcement career in 1968 with Foster City PD, promoted through the ranks and eventually worked as a Police Chief for the Cities of Gilroy, Roseville and Millbrae. In 1992, Greg accepted a political appointment to Director of Law Enforcement with the Department of Justice. Since retiring in



2003, Greg has worked as a part-time police officer in the city of West Sacramento. Greg brings with him a tremendous amount of experience and is excited about being an active patrol officer. Greg started work in Rocklin on Monday, April 9th. Welcome back to FTO, again, and again, and AGAIN!

Anthony Perez is also a lateral Public Safety Dispatcher and comes to us from the Denville Police Department, in New Jersey, where he has been employed as a dispatcher for 1 ½ years. Anthony has also been an Emergency Medical Technician for the past 3 years with the

Wharton Fire Department. Anthony is making the move westward to California, and is looking forward to a much better climate and living environment. Anthony will be starting his first day with Rocklin on Saturday, April 28th. Welcome to the Golden State!



Kudos by Lt. Dave Johnstone

As part of their grand opening festivities, the new Mervyns in Rocklin hosted ChildSpree, a shopping spree for underprivileged children in the local community. Mervyns invited the Rocklin Police Department to participate as a special VIP Chaperone at this worthwhile event. When asked for a volunteer, Officer Tina Mueller graciously offered to represent our department.

For the past 14 years, ChildSpree has donated more than \$18 million and helped more than 180,000 underprivileged children in local communities go back to school with new clothing, shoes, and a much needed boost of self-confidence. This year, Mervyns served more than 9,000 children in the communities they serve, including local

children in Rocklin and other nearby cities.

On March 3, 2006, Officer Mueller and other community leaders assisted a number of underprivileged children with selecting their new wardrobes and witnessed first hand the excitement of the event.

Officer's Mueller's participation

in ChildSpree exhibited the professionalism of the Rocklin Police Department and its commitment to the community. Thank you Officer Mueller for the important service you have rendered in our community and as always, stepping up.

Traffic on the High Seas by Lt. Steve Newman

The state's top traffic safety and transportation officials, along with law enforcement and advocates from throughout the state, met in San Diego this week to discuss California's top traffic safety concerns, share best practices and generate innovative ideas for improving safety on roadways in the Golden State. The conference focused on preventing the loss of life and injuries related to seat belts and impaired driving. "Wearing a seat belt is the easiest act anyone can do to prevent a fatal injury during an automobile collision," said Jeff Amado, "It's important, it's simple, and it saves lives."

Pictured at right are Sgt. Bob Martin, Motor Officer Steve Ortman, Traffic Clerk Virginia Trevino, Motor Officers Jeff Amado and Casey Finney, attending a welcome dinner aboard the USS Midway, sponsored by the Office of Traffic Safety.



Sex Offender Registration Team by Det. Sgt. Lon Milka

The Rocklin Police Department's Sex Offender Registration Program is recognized as a leader in tracking and checking compliance of sex offender registrants.

Police Department Records Clerk DeeAnn Ralphs is a driving force behind the success of this program, which has received accolades from the California Department of Justice (DOJ). When DeeAnn joined the department in August 2004, she took it upon herself to improve the existing process for registering and tracking sex offenders. She reorganized the files, attended as many trainings as she could, developed relationships with the DOJ 290 experts, and helped organize the annual sex registrant compliance checks, coordinated by Detective Brad Alford, for the last couple of years. Additionally, she proactively informs detectives in the investiga-

tions unit when a registrant falls out of compliance.

DeeAnn's work has paid off in the form of recognition from DOJ at sex registration trainings, known as "290" training for penal code governing sex registration. The Rocklin Police Department is constantly recognized as a "how to do it" agency from DOJ trainers at these forums.

Thanks to the partnership between the Investigations Unit and the Records Unit, especially DeeAnn Ralphs, the City of Rocklin is a great city in which to live.

10 Strategies For Success

- 1. HOW YOU THINK IS EVERYTHING:** Always be positive. Think success, not failure. Beware of a negative environment.
- 2. DECIDE UPON YOUR TRUE DREAMS AND GOALS:** Write down your specific goals and develop a plan to reach them.
- 3. TAKE ACTION:** Goals live nothing without action. Don't be afraid to get started. "Just do it"
- 4. NEVER STOP LEARNING:** Go back to school or read books. Get training and acquire skills.
- 5. BE PERSISTENT AND WORK HARD:** Success is a marathon, not a sprint. Never give up.
- 6. LEARN TO ANALYZE DETAILS:** Get all the facts, all the input. Learn from your mistakes.
- 7. FOCUS YOUR TIME AND MONEY:** Don't let other people or things distract you.
- 8. DON'T BE AFRAID TO INNOVATE; BE DIFFERENT:** Following the herd is a sure way to mediocrity.
- 9. DEAL AND COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE EFFECTIVELY:** No person is an island. Learn to understand and motivate others.
- 10. BE HONEST AND DEPENDABLE; TAKE RESPONSIBILITY:** Otherwise, numbers 1-9 won't matter.