

ROCKLIN PD NEWS



Rocklin Police Department

Message from the Chief by Mark Siemens

Someone Will Be "Mocking" Us!

Some of you have been doing the hard and important work of building procedures and policies to meet accreditation standards. I appreciate all of your hard work, and it is now in the hands of a team that will put it all together in a set of coordinated policy and procedure manuals.

We have moved into a new phase of our journey to excellence. To use a football analogy, we made it through to the first two quarters AND WE ARE WINNING! The Accreditation Team for the second half of our self-assessment is made up of Sergeant Freeman, Corporal Butler, Wendy Smith, Lisa Nizankiewicz, Jennifer Collins, Aaron Robertson, both Captains and myself. We are working many hours to put your hard work into our system.

I am feeling very good about where this work will get us. I became quite excited about our work during a recent conversation with

Corporal Butler. As we were talking about a few procedures, I realized that so many of the blurry or little known processes we are called upon to perform will now be written down. No longer will we be going from supervisor to supervisor asking about how to perform one of those seldom required, but important tasks. We will have a complete resource to refer to on that occasion. Over time, we will continue refinement of the procedures manual, truly leading to our vision of excellence.

We have a tight schedule to get this all completed and that brings me back to the "mocking" issue. As some of you know, the self-assessment phase of the accreditation process ends with a group of CALEA assessors coming on-site to look at our records, see our systems, and talk with many of you. If we have met the accreditation standards in our agency, we are then accredited. Six months before the actual on-site examination,

we bring in a few CALEA assessors for a trial run, referred to as a "mock on-site" inspection. During that visit we will experience a taste of what the actual on-site will bring and identify areas where we have deficiencies.

Many of you will be involved in the final on-site inspection and the "mock" on-site. A few of our members got a test run last week when Captain Masterson of Alameda County Sheriff's Department visited our agency. Captain Masterson is a CALEA assessor. If you want to know what that was like ask Jenise Westmoreland, Jennifer Stroble, Tom Dwyer, Sharon Whitaker or Pat O'Brien. In the next few articles, I will be writing about some other legs of our trip in the journey to excellence.



Special Points of Interest

- Message from the Chief
- Pedestrian Crossing Operation
- Detectives Go Undercover
- Red Light Runners Beware

Captains' Corner by Dan Ruden and Ron Lawrence

The Oakland Raiders profess a "Commitment To Excellence," or at least that is their slogan, but what does that really mean for them? Is this their Mission Statement? While I'll admit it's a catchy mantra, I wonder if they have a set of core values within their team that provide a foundation for who they are and what they represent? If you're not a Raiders fan I suppose this slogan may not even resonate with you, or perhaps it even invokes bad feelings. I presume they strive for an all-encompassing commitment to excellence from each team member in all that they do, or at least on the field. The U.S Army has had a few slogans over the years which believe it or not, were

ad campaigns targeting a specific generation, such as "Be All You Can Be," (Baby Boomers) followed by "An Army of One," (Gen-X) and now the newest "Army Strong," (Gen-Y or "Nexters"). I wonder if our Rocklin PD slogan (Mission Statement) is apparent to those who we serve, or is it more like the Raiders slogan, clear in meaning but ambiguous in terms of actual performance? Do our citizens truly believe that we are committed to serve, protect and promote a safe community? As leaders in the organization it certainly is our hope that they do, but it is up to each of us as individuals to approach every encounter with our Mission Statement commitments in mind. We enjoy a suppor-

tive community and a positive reputation, which should be safe-guarded by us all. We are certainly well on our way to achieving a level of professionalism and excellence that we all want Rocklin PD to represent. However, achieving a high level of excellence certainly comes with a sacrifice, and in terms of sacrifice in our organization, sometimes that sacrifice comes in the form of change. Changing the manner in which we approach our internal systems and procedures, evolving our technology, changing our outlook on how we serve our community, etc. Though this change can be uncomfortable at times, there is no doubt we have experienced

tremendous growth towards our vision of excellence. Changing our culture is not easy, and the current accreditation process is precisely what this change towards excellence is all about. If you are someone who questions why we are working so hard towards this CALEA endeavor, the answer is really one for you to provide to yourself. Do you want Rocklin PD to be the very best that it can be? I do, and we hope that you do too.

This month's "Captain's Corner Challenge" is: *How many Super-Bowls have the Raiders played, what Super-Bowl numbers were they, and what date was the last one played?*

Pedestrian Crossing Operation by Sergeant Bob Martin

During her door to door contacts with residents living in the area between Grove Street and Pacific Street, Officer Natalie Constable received complaints regarding resident's apprehension in crossing Pacific Street at Pine, Cedar, and Oak Street. Many of the people Natalie spoke to were elderly and said they would not cross at the above locations. Officer Constable enlisted the help from the motor officers and conducted a pedestrian crossing operation- with Natalie working as the pedestrian.

It did not take long before she was dodging vehicles while she was in the crosswalk. In less than 50 minutes, 5 citations were issued and 1 warning to motorists that failed to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian

within a marked crosswalk. It was encouraging to see that there are many drivers still willing to stop and allow a pedestrian to safely cross the street.

An employee of a dental office adjacent to where we were conducting this operation ran out to Officer Constable and thanked her for our efforts. Natalie also received some thumbs-up from neighboring businesses that caught on to what we were doing. I wonder what gave it away? The many trips back and forth Natalie made or was it the police motorcycle zooming out from the side street almost every time she crossed the street?



Officer Natalie Constable



Matt Redding Memorial Interchange Planned by Captain Dan Ruden

On October 9, 2005, Rocklin Police Officer Matt Redding was killed by a drunk driver on State Route 65 near the Stanford Ranch/Galleria Interchange. At the time of his death, Officer Redding was setting up traffic control for a high-risk traffic stop, protecting his fellow officers and the community.

State Senator Aanestad, who represents the Rocklin area, is introducing legislation during the 2007 legislative session to name the Stanford Ranch/Galleria Interchange at State Route 65 the "Officer Matthew J. Redding Memorial Interchange." Senator Aanestad is coordinating this legislation with

the office of Senator Dave Cox, who represents the Roseville area. The renaming effort was initiated by Rocklin Resident Derek Beverly.

Wasn't there a plan to rename part of Highway 65 after Matt?

All nearby sections of State Route 65 are already named for other individuals. The Redding family selected the interchange at Galleria/Stanford Ranch from three eligible structures as the most appropriate place to pay tribute the memory of Matt.

What else needs to be done?

On Tuesday, February 13th, the Rocklin City Council passed a

resolution in support of naming the interchange after Officer Redding. On February 21st at 7:00 p.m., the Roseville City Council will consider a similar resolution. These resolutions will satisfy the CalTrans requirement for an expression of community support for the memorial naming. Meanwhile, CalTrans has placed a reservation on this interchange which will hold it for Matt's name until the legislation has run through the State process.

What's next?

We plan to have department personnel present whenever the proposed State legislation is introduced by Senator Aanestad.

When the exact date is known, all employees will receive notification. Once the State legislation is passed, CalTrans will produce a cost estimate and a signage plan.

Kudos by Jennifer Collins, Records and Communication Manager

Dispatchers Karri Hall and Ericka Kenady recently had a busy night of Medical Aid calls on January 22. Three calls came in simultaneously for an individual with chest pains, a female in heavy labor, and a ten day old infant with difficulty breathing due to an allergic reaction. Ericka and Karri successfully handled all three calls,

toned fire, and provided emergency medical instruction for the ten day old and the pregnant female. These ladies did a fantastic job multi-tasking, staying calm, and providing life saving medical instruction.



Ericka Kenady



Karri Hall

The Evidence Room by Detective Sergeant Lon Milka

From January 16th -18th an independent auditor, Dan Bullock of DB Consulting, performed an independent audit of the Rocklin Police Department's Property and Evidence Unit. Bullock's goal was to identify strengths and possible areas that need improvement in numerous categories, including the unit's written policies and procedures, the design of the property/evidence rooms and its security, and the training of the personnel.

Dan Bullock is a retired Deputy Chief out of San Jose PD and is

an expert in the field of Property/Evidence Procedures. He has audited 40+ departments in the last nine years spending about three days at each facility. The audit consists of several phases including an assessment of the department's Property Procedures Manual, an examination of the design of the property/evidence room and the bag and tag area, security of the facilities, and the actual tracking down of particular items of evidence. The process is considered a microscopic examination of the entire Property and Evidence Unit and, more specifically, of the

workings implemented by our Property and Evidence Technician, Sharon Whitaker.

At the conclusion of the audit, Bullock stated that the Rocklin Police Department's Property and Evidence operation is in the top 3 to 5 operations that he has ever audited. He was particularly ecstatic about the Property and Evidence Procedures Manual that Sharon authored saying that it is the best that he has ever seen and suggested that Sharon make it available to every agency in the state through the California Asso-

ciation of Property and Evidence (CAPE).

Sharon deserves kudos for a job well done. She has made the Rocklin Police Department's Property and Evidence Operation one of the best in the state and has made our department one to be proud of. Way to go, Sharon!

Red Light Runners Beware by Sergeant Bob Martin

The City Of Rocklin's Public Works and Police Department requested the Institute of Transportation Studies Technology from the University of California Berkeley, to conduct a traffic safety evaluation to help improve traffic safety in the city.

Some of the information gathered from this study suggested goals towards matching Primary Collision Factors' (PCF) and traffic enforcement of PCFs. Unsafe speed represented 41% of all hazardous violations issued and 35% of all collisions were caused by this violation. An appropriate amount of focus has been placed on speed

enforcement. Unfortunately, this does not hold true to the next highest cause of collisions. The second highest collision factor was red light runners (21%) at intersections and only less than 5% of citations were issued for this violation.

The Traffic Unit used one of its new tools to help stop red light runners. Motor Officer Steve Ortmann (minus the bike and uniform) was positioned at intersections to look for red light runners. Officer Ortmann would radio to the other motor officers parked obscured from suspected red light runners their

vehicle description and location. In less than an hour several citations were issued for not just running a red light, but two for suspended licenses, one for having an open container (alcohol), and one vehicle being towed. The Traffic Unit plans on continuing this effort along Sunset Blvd and Rocklin Road, two of the streets with the most collisions.



Officer Steve Ortmann

Your Opinion Matters by Captain Ron Lawrence

More new people? With three police officer positions open, three public safety dispatcher positions open and one administrative clerk position open we should all be anticipating more new employees entering our organization soon. We currently have people in various stages of the testing and background process to get these positions filled with the most qualified, professional and best candidates for Rocklin. As we get applicants into the testing process, they are strongly encouraged to go on a ride-a-long with Patrol or do a sit-a-long with Dispatch. As they do, your assessment of them in these environments is very important. I had an occasion a few weeks back to have a discussion with

two patrol officers, who's opinions I found highly valuable. We were discussing a lateral candidate who was not successful in the testing process. I learned that their assessment of the applicant during a ride-a-long was consistent with the interview panel's assessment of the person. It was reassuring to know that we were all on the same page in regards to the values and expectation of qualified applicants. Please share your thoughts about applicants with whom you have interactions. If after spending time with them they don't seem to have the qualities we as an organization are looking for, share them with us. We all want the very best for Rocklin PD!

Welcome Our Newest Officer by Staff

Please welcome our newest Police Officer, James Godwin, who begins with Rocklin on February 26th. James Godwin started his law enforcement career as a military police officer for the Army in the 341st MP Company in San Jose. He earned a National Defense Service Ribbon Medal and Army Service Ribbon during his time of service. After his honorable discharge he became a Deputy Sheriff for the Monterey County Sheriff's Office. James eventually went to work as a Police Officer in Salinas, where he has been for the past six years. James has worked as a patrol officer, Field Training Officer, narcotics enforcement, and as-

signments in gang suppression.

James and his wife, Melissa, have two children, Anthony, age 11, and Robert 10, and they now are residents of Rocklin. We are excited to have them join our family!



Detectives Go Undercover by Detective Sergeant Lon Milka

The recent explosion of internet sales fraud has meant that detectives have to be innovative in the investigation of such cases.

Recently, one of our major retailers discovered a pattern being used to fraudulently make some high end television and furniture purchases. They alerted me to the activity and I developed a plan to send two of our detectives undercover to make the delivery of furniture to the fraud suspect. Detective Gandy and Detective Alford wore a wireless microphone and we drove to South Sacramento to make the delivery.

As we arrived at the delivery location, a suspect “flagged

down” the truck and posing as delivery personnel, i.e., wearing business t-shirts, the detectives formulated the probable cause to make the arrest while the real delivery truck driver and I listened from a half block away.

Asked what he thought about the experience of undercover work, Detective Alford said, “That was awesome!”

I plan on using the recently-refurbished wire on a variety of investigations. If you are interested in possibly assisting in an undercover investigation please let me know!



Detectives Brad Alford and Mike Gandy



Chief Siemens showing his Valentine's Day spirit.