

# ROCKLIN PD NEWS



## Rocklin Police Department

### Message from the Chief by Mark Siemens

#### Amazed Again

I was recently looking at the latest figures regarding the safety of our community and the performance of our department. The progress, effort, and results continue to amaze me. As I look at our crime rate, I find that we have dropped 11% over the last twelve months and the trend continues. Accidents are down more than 22% over the last year. I am beginning to think that what we are doing is working.

O.K., sure, an obvious factor in this decline is the construction slowdown. Fewer houses being built mean fewer non-Rocklin residents hanging out and driving around our city who might commit crimes of opportunity or are involved in traffic collisions. We have focused our efforts on the premise that *"the majority of our crime is committed by those who come to our*

*community from outside,"* and have seen a marked improvement. So what is really driving this trend of being a safer city? I believe it is you. We have been very successful at catching criminals who do harm to our community and the word is getting out.

New commercial venues along Highway 65 are creating a regional draw and more traffic. In fact, we have seen a substantial increase in photo red light violations at Park and Sunset over the last year indicating a traffic increase. The 30% increase in traffic citations and 9% increase in traffic stops over the last year is clearly a product of your hard work, which has improved driving and decreased accidents. This traffic effort has also increased police visibility and has taken many criminals off the street before they commit more crimes.

The hard work has been on everyone's part. Dispatch, records and other professional staff have felt the increased demand of higher calls for service and the increase of officer initiated activity.

Every week, we are seeing great cases developed by our patrol officers and detectives. I am sure these terrific results will continue as long as we continue looking for ways to improve our methods and effectiveness at every level.

Keep up the good work, you all amaze me!



#### Special Points of Interest

- Message from the Chief
- Recruits at Halfway Point
- Next week is Red Ribbon Week!
- New Black and White Cars Hit the Road

### Captains Corner, by Dan Ruden and Ron Lawrence

Who cares what others think anyway? Have you ever been the victim of a rumor mill? How did you handle it when you discovered that YOU, had been the subject of others gossiping about you or something you did? Did you, in a positive, productive manner confront the individuals spreading the rumors, or did you slap on your verbal boxing gloves and jump into the ring of emotional frustration to demonstrate how angry you were? Or even more common, did you just "let it go" without doing anything about it at all? How we each deal with rumors and gossip in the workplace is important to the health and level of professionalism we all strive to achieve every day. Confronting rumors in an unhealthy manner or failing to do anything about them

leads to broken relationships, mistrust and resentment. Some of the most destructive ways people deal with rumors is not when they are the subject of them, but rather when we overhear others spreading gossip without stopping it. One effective method to curb gossipers is to change the topic of discussion



or even more effective is to out right ask people to stop gossiping, yet these seem uncomfortable and difficult to accomplish. Most of us never do it, we just listen and nod our heads, giving the gossip the impression that we agree with them. It takes courage and internal fortitude to confront others, and it seems easier to simply do nothing at all and let it pass. So here is our challenge to you: the next time you hear someone spreading a rumor or gossiping about others, be proactive and suggest that if they have something to say about an individual they should tell that person directly and to no one else. Or, simply ask them to not gossip to you, but if you do nothing at all, at least change the subject to something else. Remember:



Only you can prevent rumor fires!

## Police Recruits are at the Halfway Point, by Sergeant Jamie Knox

Over a decade ago the City of Rocklin hired a very young police recruit and sent him through the Sacramento Police Academy. Though the process was successful, the years to follow saw a trend among all law enforcement agencies to recruit lateral police officers as opposed to "rookies". This was due in part to the reliability of hiring a "seasoned" officer as well as the short training period required. Rocklin PD recently broke the trend by hiring two recruits who are now halfway through the Sacramento Police Academy.

Gavin Ray, a 24 year-old Rocklin native, and Zack Lewis, a 22 year-old from Roseville, both started the Sacramento Police Academy in early July. They currently both hold an A average academically and have passed all of their practical exams thus far. The academy class is scheduled to graduate in late December of this year.

Recruit Ray related his biggest challenge was adjusting to the militaristic style of law enforcement life. "Standing at attention, marching, and following academy protocol is something that I have not been accustomed to," Ray said.

Recruit Lewis related he has learned a great deal about officer safety so far. Lewis said, "When learning about officer safety, we were shown how easy a suspect can take away an officer's handgun."

For those of you who do not know, the Sacramento Police Academy is based out of McClellan. As one walks down the hall, he finds the classrooms lined with laptop computers, a sign of a changing face in law enforcement. The computers allow recruits to utilize practical application of what report writing is like in law enforcement today. The academy facility is also

equipped with a full gym and a state of the art "scenario/tactical village". The village is a huge warehouse containing several rooms and mock-ups of practical locations concerning the patrol officers. A clandestine drug lab, residences, a school—complete with classrooms and a locker room, and a bar with an outdoor façade—have all been constructed. Each scene is equipped with state-of-the-art audio and video surveillance—used as a training aid for the recruits (who can later view how they did in the scenario).

Recruits Ray and Lewis have been riding with RPD officers twice a month as part of their training program. Their 10-hour days do not typically end at the academy. They study at home every night and participate in academy study groups during their weekends. Both of these recruits have displayed Rocklin PD's tradition of excellence through their hard work, dedication, and academic achievements. Keep up the great work gentlemen!



Gavin Ray on left, Zach Lewis on right

## Task Force Takes Down Chop Shop, by RATTF



The Placer County Regional Auto Theft Task Force (RATTF) conducted surveillance on a Roseville address over the past month leading to the arrests of 3 subjects for operation of a chop shop, possession of stolen vehicles, and conspiracy. Bradley Duran and two juveniles were contacted in the backyard of the location physically cutting up a

stolen Subaru WRX that was reported stolen only 6 miles from their location. The Duran's have been linked to several motorcycle thefts and recently in a pursuit of a stolen Loomis motorcycle by Auburn CHP. The investigation was followed up on after Officer Westgate had recovered a stolen motorcycle in the Duran's backyard in July 2007.

RATTF detectives contacted Nicholas Duran and inquired about the vehicle seen in their backyard from CHP aerial photos. Immediately after the call to Nicholas Duran, his brother Bradley Duran was contacted by RATTF detectives while cutting apart the vehicle with two juveniles to destroy the evidence of the stolen Subaru.

## Platina on the Prowl, by Lieutenant Lon Milka

The late night hours in early October were not good for two Sacramento County residents who sped by Officer Tom Platina in his patrol car.

On Wednesday, October 03, 2007, at 11:34 PM, Officer Tom Platina alertly noticed a car that passed him at approximately 100 mph on Hwy 65. Tom affected a traffic stop and contacted the driver who said that he didn't think he was going *that* fast. The driver had traffic warrants as did the passenger.

A search of the vehicle located two methamphetamine smoking pipes. The two were arrested and upon arriving at the jail, Platina advised both subjects to read the warning that it is a felony to bring any controlled substance into the jail. He asked both subjects if they had any other illegal items with them and both subjects replied, "No."

However during the booking process, the booking deputy located a small yellow ball inside of the passenger's purse. Inside of the yellow ball, the deputy discovered approximately .4 grams of crystal methamphetamine.

Tom did a great job on this "traffic violation turn drug bust". Way to go, Tom!

## Welcome New Employee! By Capt Lawrence

We are excited to announce a new police officer joining the Department. Monday, October 15, 2007, Officer Elizabeth Davis will begin the FTO program and will have a swearing-in ceremony tentatively planned for the October 23<sup>rd</sup> City Council meeting. Officer Elizabeth Davis has worked as a deputy sheriff for the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department since October of 2004. She took a brief break from the Sheriff's Department to work for the California Department of Justice, but returned to the Sheriff's Department after seven months.



Elizabeth Davis

## Red Ribbon Week, by Mike Nottoli



Every day and night, law enforcement officers in Rocklin and every other city across the country risk their lives to reduce the sale, use, and transportation of illegal drugs. Some criminals who are involved in the drug culture are dangerous and will not hesitate to assault or kill police officers who attempt to arrest them or interfere with their drug operation.

Every October, we celebrate "Red Ribbon Week", a nation-wide effort to reduce drug activity and to encourage people to live a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The red ribbon is also a national symbol that reminds us about Federal Drug Enforcement Agent Enrique Camarena.

In 1985, Agent Camarena was murdered by drug traffickers after he destroyed an 8 billion dollar marijuana plantation in Mexico. He was working undercover and

had infiltrated a large South American drug ring when his cover was blown. Before he could return to the United States, he was captured, held hostage for two days and tortured before being killed by the drug ring.

The City of Rocklin encourages its employees, residents, schools and businesses to show their support for the fight against drugs by displaying a red ribbon during "Red Ribbon Week". Please do what you can to promote this public awareness campaign. For your convenience, a supply of red ribbons will be placed at the front counter of the Police Department, Fire Stations, City Hall, City Administration, Sunset Center, and the Corporation Yard. You are encouraged to wear your red ribbon from October 23<sup>rd</sup> - October 31<sup>st</sup> to show your support for Red Ribbon Week.

## Teamwork Nails Frauds, by Sergeant Scott Horrillo

On 09/18/2007, Officer Cowart responded to a "typical" identity theft/fraud call at one of Rocklin's retail businesses. The suspects in this case were manufacturing fake checks on real accounts. Officer Cowart conducted a thorough investigation which included documenting the property fraudulently taken and video surveillance of the suspect during this crime.

Detective Spurgeon investigated leads to five retail businesses that

were victims of fraud from this crime ring and served search warrants at four residences. As a result of Detective Spurgeon's investigation and the served search warrants, four suspects were arrested for possession of over \$40,000 in stolen property, identity theft and other charges which included possession of an illegal assault rifle and manufacturing of an illegal substance.

This case is a text-book example of

a great initial investigation by a patrol officer (Greg Cowart) which allowed investigations to follow up on solid leads and close the case with arrests. It should also be noted that employees outside of the investigations unit CSO's Hedrick, Regalia and Salazar and SRO's Osborne, Torres and Newton assisted in this investigation. Without this teamwork the investigation would not have worked out as well as it did.



Officer Spurgeon

## A Successful Committee, A New Look, by Corporal Rich Cabana

In the summer of 2006 Captain Ruden formed the Police Vehicle Advisory Committee to collectively provide input and recommendations about the appearance, configuration and equipment of Rocklin's police vehicles. Sgt. Chad Butler, Cpl. Bart Paduveris, Steve Ortmann, Clarence Sperling, Matt Diridoni and I researched, reviewed and commented on new equipment proposals and gave Patrol "one voice" in the decisions affecting our "mobile offices".

The first step was a proposal for a new black and white patrol car design. We were given the latitude to come up with a design and color scheme that would change our entire fleet of police cars to a more contemporary and visible look. There were only two choices available as far as color schemes go: there is the

LAPD style with four white doors and the CHP style with two white doors. The patrol staff was polled and the votes edged slightly towards the CHP style. However, one of our primary considerations for black & white vehicles was the "force multiplier" effect we gain with our bordering police agencies using the 4-door style. We ultimately made the decision to go with the LAPD style black and white.

The next task was to find a graphics design acceptable to all. The prerequisite was that the car was, #1: identifiable as a "police car", and, #2: identifiable as a Rocklin police car. After looking at various proposals, we settled on the current design.

In September of 2008, the Rocklin Police Department rolled out its first black and white patrol car, with many more to follow.

Another major objective of the Committee was the review of cockpit controls in our police cars. The Committee recommended phased elimination of the TACNET computer systems. It has been three years since the implementation of TACNET and after giving the system a "fair shake", everyone realized it was just not practical for our application. TACNET is being phased out and we will eventually work in a patrol car with a more traditional console with which many of us are familiar and more comfortable. Again, Patrol officers provided ongoing input about the new configurations you'll see in the new cars.

The evolution of the patrol cars marks the completion of the Vehicle Advisory Committee's task. Each of these changes involved input of officers from every shift. The end result is a completely

new look, inside and out, for our patrol cars. The Vehicle Advisory Committee is proud of the new look and functionality of these cars and we hope they serve the needs of the entire Patrol staff for many years to come. The total transformation of the entire fleet will take time, but it shows with participation and support, we all have the ability to affect our vision of making Rocklin PD an even better place to work.







### MADD Walk a Success, by Sergeant Terry Roide

Once again, the Rocklin Police Department created a team and raised money for the Northern California Strides for Change walk on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at Arco Arena. This walk is a fundraiser for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). Members of the Rocklin Police Department have been active with this fundraiser since we lost Officer Matthew Redding on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005 to a drunk driver. This was our third year participating and we raised more money this

year than that of both other years combined and then multiplied by two! Our team raised approximately \$2,500.00 and out of over 30 Law Enforcement agencies, we had the 5<sup>th</sup> highest amount of contributions. The money that was raised is used by MADD for their beneficial programs to prevent drunk driving and to assist families of victims who have had a loved one killed by a drunk driver.

I drove Marilyn Redding to the event and she was very impressed with our continued involvement. She added that MADD was a fabulous organization and sat with both John and Marilyn during the entire trial. I would like to thank all of the people who walked out there with us and those who donated to our team. For those that did not get a chance to participate, we hope to see you next year!

### K9 DIVA Provides Probable Cause, by Sergeant Chad Butler

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Corporal Westgate and K9 Diva were at Rocklin High School conducting a random unannounced "sniff for narcotics". After Diva had completed sniffing nearly 100 vehicles in the parking lot, she alerted on one

vehicle indicating the presence of narcotics. A search of the vehicle was conducted by School Resource Officer Newton. During the search, several items of suspected stolen property were located as well as a marijuana pipe and illegal fire-

works. After several days of follow up, Officer Newton was able to locate most of the owners of the stolen items and return them. The Student was suspended for 5 days and placed on a mitigated contract in lieu of expulsion. Corporal

Westgate, K9 Diva, and Officer Newton are to be commended for assisting in keeping our schools safe. This incident will reinforce to students that bringing narcotics to school is unacceptable and if K9 Diva is working, you're going to get caught.

### Matt Redding Interchange Dedicated October 9th, by Captain Dan Ruden

Over 250 people attended last Tuesday's dedication ceremony for the Officer Matthew J. Redding Memorial Interchange. In a parking lot on Five Star Boulevard that overlooks Highway 65 and the Stanford Ranch / Galleria Boulevard interchange, the ceremony officially dedicated the structure in the name of Rocklin Police Officer Matt Redding, who was killed in the line of duty on October 9, 2005, exactly 2 years prior to the ceremony.



change in honor of Officer Matt Redding. SCR10 became law on July 10, 2007. Last week, the California Department of Transportation installed two 16' x 5' memorial signs on northbound and southbound Highway 65, officially designating the interchange the "Officer Matthew J. Redding Memorial Interchange". The signs were temporarily covered in canvas in preparation for unveiling at the dedication ceremony.

The ceremony started off with some words of encouragement from Placer County Senior Chaplain **Terry Morgan**, then

comments by Rocklin POA President **Bart Paduveris**. Among the speakers were Roseville Police Lieutenant and SWAT Commander **Stephen Moore**, representatives from the offices of State Senators Sam Aanestad and Dave Cox, Rocklin Police Chief **Mark Siemens** and **John & Marilyn Redding**.

During the ceremony, **Larry Osborne**, who is the director of *Run Rocklin*, and also the father of Rocklin Police Officer **Chris Osborne**, presented John and Marilyn with a check for \$10,000 in race proceeds for the Matt Redding Memorial Scholarship fund. Mr. Osborne also donated key chains for the dedication event with an image of the Memorial Interchange signs.

At the end of the ceremony, as the crowd looked on, Officer **Michael Hurrianko** and Cal-

trans' **Pat Day** received the signal from John Redding to unveil the memorial sign. The memorial signs are visible to both directions of Highway 65 traffic as well as traffic exiting to the interchange. The Rocklin POA coordinated fundraising efforts to pay for the cost of manufacturing and installation of the two memorial signs.

The signs now stand as a permanent tribute to Matt and all he meant to us and the community.



Stanford Ranch and Hwy 65