

SAN RAFAEL POLICE DEPARTMENT

WINTER 2013 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VII ISSUE I

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Welcome to SRPD!

Recently, we had the pleasure of welcoming five new members of the San Rafael Police Department. Please let us introduce Anthony "A.J." Endy, Erik Wikman, Meaghan Pang, Chris Fuller, and Sam Garanzini!

Cadet Anthony "A.J." Endy was raised in Rohnert Park. He attended Rancho Cotati High School, graduating in 2010. He is attending the Santa Rosa Junior College and plans to complete his Associate of Arts degree in Administration of Justice.

Cadet Erik Wikman grew up in Marin and attends Sonoma State University, in his junior year. Erik would like to pursue a career in law enforcement and has been working towards that goal as an Explorer with the Twin Cities Police Department and now as a cadet here in San Rafael.

Dispatcher Meaghan Pang was born and raised in Richmond, California. She graduated from El Cerrito High School and then attended the College of Marin where she earned her A.A. degree in Liberal Arts. She recently earned her B.S. degree in Public Safety from Capella University. Meaghan worked as a dispatcher with the Marin County Sheriff's Office and as a part time dispatcher with the Novato Police Department.

Police Officer Chris Fuller grew up in Sacramento California. He attended the University of California Davis where he received a B.A. degree in Psychology. Chris was a collegiate athlete at UC Davis between 2004-2008. He competed in both Cross Country and Track for the Aggies. Chris still continues to have a passion for physical fitness and sports. Chris would like to someday complete an IronMan.

Police Officer Sam Garanzini grew up in a large law enforcement family in St. Louis, Missouri where he worked with the St. Louis Police Department as an explorer. He came to San Rafael in 1999 and attended the University of San Francisco. He graduated with a Master's degree in Psychology, and in 2005 became a licensed psychotherapist. Sam became a reserve officer for San Rafael PD in 2010, and then was hired full time in 2012. An avid motorcyclist, Sam hopes to be a motor officer someday. In his free time he studies Spanish, and travels with family.

Retirements

On November 3rd, the San Rafael Police Association honored seven of its members who retired in 2011 and 2012. Each member brought a unique set of skills to San Rafael Police department, all of whom will be missed.



David Cron served the San Rafael Police Department for 24 years and 5 months. During his tenure he served as Patrol Officer, Foot Beat Officer, Juvenile Crimes Detective, Crimes Against Persons Detective, Field Training Officer, SWAT Officer and Patrol Supervisor. David ended his career with the San Rafael Police Department as the Sergeant in charge of Professional Standards.

Richard Clary worked as a police officer for San Rafael Police Department for 30 years and nine months. During that time, he served the community as a Patrol Officer, K-9 Handler, Traffic officer, and Firearms Instructor. Rick's last assignment was as a Patrol Sergeant working nightshift on the weekends.

Robin Mark-White served the community for 25 years and 7 months. She started as a Parking Enforcement Officer, and ended her career as a Police Dispatcher. She also served on the police department's Tactical Dispatch Unit.

Lisa McElroy served as a police dispatcher for the San Rafael Police Department for 25 years and 7 months. During her tenure she served as a Tactical Dispatcher and as a Communications Training Officer.

Millard Garrett served the City of San Rafael as a Police Officer for 9 years and 8 months. During that time, Millard served on the County's Coordinated Probation Enforcement team (COPE) the police department's Directed Patrol Unit, the SWAT team and also as a Field Training Officer.





San Rafael Police Department

“PROTECTING THE MISSION CITY”

Tim Horvath came to San Rafael Police Department in August of 2006 after serving as a Police Officer in a law enforcement agency in Napa County. Tim served the community as a Patrol Officer during his 5 year tenure at the San Rafael Police Department.

Kenneth Poehlman came to the San Rafael Police Department in July of 2007 after a long and distinguished career at the San Francisco District Attorney’s Office. Ken served the community as a Patrol Officer, and also served as Assistant Team Leader on the department’s Hostage Negotiation Team during his 5 years with the department.

National Night Out

August 7, 2012

On Tuesday, August 7, 2012 from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM neighbors throughout San Rafael were invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the “29th” Annual National Night Out” anti-crime/drug prevention event. National Night Out, which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and cosponsored locally by the San Rafael Police Department. During this event, city officials stop by and visit each neighborhood, taking this opportunity to socialize with the citizens and come together in the fight against crime.

National Night Out is designed to: (1) Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) Generate support and participation in local anti-crime efforts; (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and community-police relations; and (4) Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.



Sgt. Wanda Spaletta and our community at National Night Out, August 7, 2012

San Rafael Police and Fire Departments participated in National Night Out this year for the first time. We were pleasantly surprised how great the event turned out. There were a total of over 300 participants at 8 different venues. Each location had the beat officer assigned to an event. Chief Bishop and Mayor Gary Phillips drove together, while the Captains and Lieutenants rode with the other members of the City Council and attended the venues. In addition, we had a Photographer (Officer), Motor officer, 2 Dispatchers, 2 Community Service Officers, the PIO/Records Supervisor, and Youth Service Bureau Supervisor also attend all locations. They handed out finger lights, bracelets, glow necklaces, mini basketballs, stickers and punch balls. The parents received information on crimereports.com and Child ID kits. The kids loved all the giveaways. Throughout the night, PIO Rohrbacher “tweeted” photos from the locations.

Because of all of you and your efforts, we were able to have a successful night, meet many nice people, strengthen neighborhood spirit and develop community relations. We look forward to the 30th annual National Night Out on August 6, 2013 and hope you’ll join us.



Chief Diana Bishop and our community at National Night Out, August 7, 2012



WINTER 2013 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Listen to Learn, or Watch to Learn

On October 27, 2012, San Rafael Police Department Corporal Scott Ingels joined San Rafael business owner and radio talk show host Edward Brown on Brown’s talk show, Best of Investing. Best of Investing’s website describes the format of the show as “...akin to three guys sitting at a bar (minus the drinks!) talking about financial issues of the day. Always relevant, oftentimes irreverent, we give you the news behind the news and bring common sense to the often confusing headlines of today’s media.”

Best of Investing airs on station 910am for one hour on Saturdays at 1:00pm. Corporal Ingels answered questions relating to Identity Theft. Topics of the show included defining Identity Theft, common schemes and scams and methods to protect yourself.

A recording of the radio show can be heard on a link found on www.bestofinvesting.com. Any questions regarding information provided by Corporal Ingels can be directed to the San Rafael Police Department at 415-485-3000.

More identity theft prevention tips and other crime prevention checklists can be found online at:
http://www.srpd.org/beinformed/crime_prevention

Burglary Update

Between mid September and October, the Police Department has been investigating a series of residential burglaries in the Glenwood and Peacock Gap areas. The suspects generally gain access through unlocked windows and doors and then search for jewelry and cash, but do not ransack the house. The premises are left so neat that the residents are sometimes unaware of the burglaries for days. It is believed that the burglars may be knocking on doors, possibly posing as solicitors, in an attempt to determine if the home is unoccupied. Legitimate solicitors should have proper identification and credentials. Extra officers have

been specifically assigned to patrol the residential area and investigators are continuing to follow up on leads from several of these cases. Additionally, Department volunteers distributed flyers providing safety tips on how to protect your home from burglary.

We are happy to report the number of burglaries in the Peacock Gap and Glenwood area have decreased significantly since the end of October. Investigators are continuing to investigate leads that have been developed and physical evidence examined in the hopes of identifying the person (s) responsible for the rash of burglaries that have occurred. Because the burglaries have stopped, the department still recommends keeping houses secure and calling the police if there are any suspicious people in the area.

Here are a few burglary prevention basics:

1. Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time, lock your doors.
2. Leave lights on when you go out. If you are going to be away for a length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.
3. Keep your garage door closed and locked.
4. Don't allow daily deliveries of mail, newspapers or flyers build up while you are away. Arrange with the Post Office to hold your mail, or arrange for a friend or neighbor to take them regularly.
5. Arrange for your lawn to be mowed if you are going away for an extended time.
6. Check your locks on doors and windows and replace them with secure devices as necessary.
7. Pushbutton locks on doorknobs are easy for burglars to open. Install deadbolt locks on all your outside doors.
8. Sliding glass doors are vulnerable. Special locks are available for better security.

...find more burglary prevention tips at:
http://www.srpd.org/beinformed/crime_prevention/

Residents are reminded to keep their doors and windows locked and are encouraged to contact the Police Department if they see anyone in their neighborhoods that appear suspicious or unfamiliar to the area by calling 485-3000 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.





Automated License Plate Readers

Officer Alex Holm

In November, the San Rafael Police Department outfitted two of our existing patrol cars with automatic license plate reader (ALPR) technology. SRPD was included in a grant awarded to the Marin County Sheriff’s Office, which covered the cost of equipping one of our patrol cars with a four camera system.

The ALPR system alerts officers to vehicles that are stolen, displaying stolen license plates, and even those involved in an AMBER alert. The ALPR system is a computer-based system that utilizes special cameras to capture a color image, as well as an infrared image of a license plate from a passing vehicle. The images are converted to a text file utilizing Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology. The text file is automatically compared against an “information data file” that contains information on stolen vehicles.



Two SRPD vehicles are outfitted with automatic license plate reader (ALPR) cameras.

The ALPR system has already proven successful. To date we have recovered numerous stolen vehicles parked in various neighborhoods. In addition, officers were alerted to two stolen vehicles that were driving in San Rafael. One was an unreturned rental car that had been reported stolen out of the Los Angeles area. The second was a stolen vehicle out of San Rafael. The drivers of both vehicles were arrested and booked at the Marin County Jail.

New Supervisor’s Vehicle

The San Rafael Police Department has deployed a new supervisor’s vehicle to the fleet. The replacement of a patrol car and exchange for this unit provides our supervisors with readily accessible options that they can carry to the street without having to return to the station.

The vehicle is a 2011 Ford Expedition SUV and is outfitted with a compartment in the cargo area that allows supervisors to more quickly and effectively establish a command post for response to significant incidents. Our supervisor’s unit has already been put into action this last month and has been invaluable in coordinating our response to these incidents.



New supervisor’s vehicle provides additional resources to our officers in the field.

The vehicle includes spare portable radio batteries, flashlights, forcible entry tools, and two ballistic shields. The ballistic shields will provide added protection for our emergency personnel in potential armed conflicts. This unit also has additional radio capabilities so other members of our Public Safety team can work with each other in one location, enhancing our communication capability and making our efforts more efficient. The new vehicle will make it easier to coordinate the response to major events such as crime scenes and wildland fires with other agencies and the City of San Rafael Emergency Operations Center.





San Rafael K-9 Program

The San Rafael Police Department started its K-9 Program, also known as the Police Service Dog (PSD) Program, in 1984. The program was eliminated in 2002 due to lack of funding, staff shortages, the promotion of one of the PSD handlers, and the medical retirement of the other. This program was very popular both internally and externally and many were very disappointed when it was eliminated. Throughout the years, there have been a few attempts to get the program going once again but it never progressed past the very beginning stages.

In the ensuing years our department has had to rely on the availability of PSD's from other Marin County law enforcement agencies to assist us when we have a need for a PSD. Often, if a PSD is not available, or the estimated time of arrival is extended, officers will have to take unnecessary risks to resolve situations where a PSD would be better deployed.

When Chief Bishop arrived in January of 2012, she began asking people in the department about the defunct PSD program. She found that this program had great support inside the department and thought that it would be an important program to resume for the safety of the community as well as the officers on the street. Below is an example of some of the uses for a PSD:

- Mere presence often gains compliance of suspects
- Responds to calls involving armed or dangerous suspects
- Responds to in progress robberies and burglaries
- Responds to vehicle pursuits
- Building searches
- Responds to high risk vehicle stops
- Member of entry team for SWAT
- Searches for missing persons
- Searches for concealed or fleeing suspects
- Goodwill ambassadors at schools (PSD demonstrations)
- Presence at events such as the Farmer's Market, Citizens Police Academy, National Night Out, etc.

Initially, we need to depend on community donations to get this program started. The San Rafael Police Association volunteered to take the lead and decided to set-up a foundation which will allow people to make 100% tax deductible donations. The San Rafael Police K-9 Association has their website up and can take donations on-line. Their website can be found at: <http://srpolicek9.org/>

We are all very excited about the prospect of the PSD program returning to SRPD. With everyone's help, we are hopeful that it will happen very soon.





Inspection & New Badges

Chief Diana Bishop

The Department held a formal inspection of all Police employees on Saturday, August 4. All employees were on hand in their Class A uniform while the Chief and Captains inspected all uniforms and equipment. A department photograph was also taken. The inspection serves to build pride in the uniform and the job we perform everyday.



The Police Department unveiled the new badge design earlier this month. A departmental workgroup developed the new design. They determined that in the spirit of community policing, it is important for the public to easily identify members of the Department. So the employee identification number is in the center of the badge. The traditional seven point star was retained and emphasis was given to the lettering of “San Rafael.” Also included in the design is our City’s incorporation date of 1855. Our officers began wearing the new design in December.



Staffing Changes

To keep our community up to date with who our investigators are, and which patrol officers work in your neighborhood, the following is a current lineup of our staff. On this page, you will find our current traffic officers, detectives, and members of our street crimes unit. On the next page, you will find a roster of our patrol officers including the days and area they work.

Traffic

Sergeant:	Christopher Coale
Sun-Wed	Eric Huot
Wed-Sat	Justin Schrader

Investigations

Sergeant:	Mike Vergara
General:	Aaron Piombo
Sex Crimes:	Justin Graham
Property Crimes:	Marc LaPlante
Crimes Against Persons:	Todd Berringer
School Resource Officer:	David Casalnuovo

Street Crimes Unit:

Sergeant:	Raul Aguilar
Detective:	Christian Diaz
Detective:	Chris Duncan
Detective:	George Schikore



Officer Henkle participates in National Night Out





San Rafael Police Department

“PROTECTING THE MISSION CITY”

Day Shift 5:00 AM - 5:00 PM

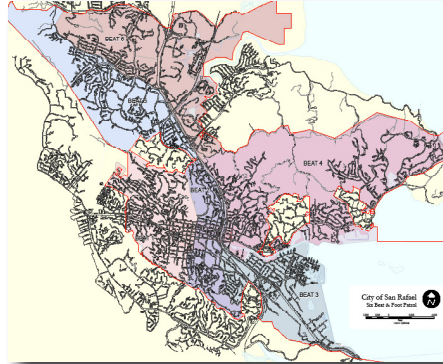
SRPD Patrol Officers

Night Shift (5:00 PM - 5:00 AM)

Monday-Wednesday (Team 1)

Sgt. Eberle
 GP* Mathis
 Beat 1 Paxson
 Beat 2 Chiu
 Beat 3 Camins
 Beat 4 Bellamy
 Beat 5 O’Toole
 Beat 6 Henkle
 FootBeat Sabido

Our Officers work either 4/10 or 3/12. The officers working a 3/12 shift also work every third Sunday, therefore Sundays are a mixture of officers.



NOTE: To see map in greater detail, use Adobe Acrobat Reader toolbar and zoom in and magnify map to 400% or more.

** GP stands for “General Patrol”. Officers assigned to GP are not assigned to a specific beat.*

Thursday-Saturday (Team 2)

Sgt. Leon
 GP* Reese
 Beat 1 Ingels
 Beat 2 Patterson
 Beat 3 Larkey
 Beat 4 Cogbill, E.
 Beat 5 Collins
 Beat 6 Tirre

Monday-Wednesday (Team 3)

Sgt. Spaletta
 GP* Huber
 Beat 1 Prince
 Beat 2 Augustyn
 Beat 3 Castaneda
 Beat 4 Auld
 Beat 5 Byers
 Beat 6 Sweeney
 Footbeat Cleland

Thursday-Saturday (Team 4)

Sgt. Holton
 GP* R. Cogbill
 GP* Hornstein
 Beat 1 Melodia
 Beat 2 Fuller
 Beat 2 Holm
 Beat 3 Bowker
 Beat 4 MacDougald
 Beat 5 Garanzini

Beat 1 - Downtown

West of B Street to Ross Valley Drive, includes the Sun Valley, Fairhills, West End, and Gerstle Park neighborhoods.

Happy Valley, Country Club, Loch Lomond, Bayside Acres, Glenwood, and Peacock Gap Neighborhoods.

Beat 2 - Downtown

East of B Street to Irwin Street, and to the top of Lincoln Avenue. Includes Gerstle Park, Albert Park, Picnic Valley, Bret Harte and Francisco Boulevard West neighborhoods.

Beat 5 - Northwest/Northgate Mall

North of the top of Lincoln Avenue to Manuel T. Freitas Parkway and west of the US-101 Freeway. Includes Rafael Meadows/Los Ranchitos, Terra Linda Neighborhoods, and the North San Rafael Commercial Center. The Northgate Mall Shopping Centers are also included.

Beat 3 - Canal

South of the Canal waterway to the Richmond Bridge. Includes the Francisco Boulevard West, Canal Waterfront, and Canal Neighborhoods.

Beat 6 - Northeast/Smith Ranch

North of Villa Avenue to Lucas Valley and Smith Ranch Roads, east of the US-101 and north of Manuel T. Freitas Parkway. Includes the Civic Center, Smith Ranch, Mont Marin/San Rafael Park, North San Rafael Commercial Center, and half of the Terra Linda Neighborhoods.

Beat 4 - East

East of the US-101 freeway and Irwin Street to Biscayne Drive and north of the Canal waterfront to the end of Villa Avenue. Includes the Dominican/Black Canyon, Montecito/



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