

San Rafael Police Department

FALL 2009 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
VOLUME III, ISSUE IV

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Fall 2009 & Winter 2010
Officer Line-up

Red Light Photo
Enforcement Begins

On the Cover:
Officer Graham driving eastbound
on Fourth Street in Downtown
San Rafael

Photo by Officer Graham



"PROTECTING THE MISSION CITY"

Matthew C. Odetto, Chief of Police . 1400 Fifth Avenue . San Rafael. California . 94901 . 415.485.3000





QUICK REFERENCE TO IDENTITY THEFT

By Detective Scott Ingels

Identity theft involves acquiring key pieces of someone's identifying information, such as name, address, date of birth, social security number and mother's maiden name, in order to impersonate them. This information enables the identity thief to commit numerous forms of fraud which include, but are not limited to, taking over the victims financial accounts, opening new bank accounts, purchasing automobiles, applying for loans, credit cards and social security benefits, renting apartments, and establishing services with utility and phone companies.

HOW DOES IDENTITY THEFT OCCUR?

- Theft of purse or wallet containing ID, credit and bank cards
- Theft of mail, especially bank and credit card statements and pre-approved credit applications
- Change of address forms that can be completed by a thief with your information
- Personal data retrieved from trash cans
- Personal information that is either bought or stolen from inside sources, such as the internet.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU BECOME THE VICTIM OF AN IDENTITY THEFT:

- Contact all creditors by phone and writing informing them of the problem
- Set up a folder to keep a detailed history of the crime
- Notify the US Postal Inspector if you mail has been stolen or tampered with:
See phone listing for local post office
www.usps.gov/websites/depart/inspect
- Contact the Federal Trade Commission to report the problem:
www.ftc.gov - The FTC is the federal clearinghouse for complaints by victims of identity theft. The FTC helps victims by providing information to help resolve financial and other problems that could result from identity theft.
- Identity theft hotline: 1-877-IDTHEFT
- Contact each of the three credit bureaus' fraud units to report identity theft:
www.Equifax.com
www.Experian.com
www.TransUnion.com

Request that a copy of your credit report be sent to you. Contact the Social Security Administration's Fraud Hotline: 1-800-269-0271. Contact the state office of the Department of Motor Vehicles at 1-866-658-5758 to see if another license has been issued in your name. If so, request a new license number and fill out a DMV complaint form to begin the fraud investigation process. Obtain a description of the suspect if known. Obtain witness information if any.

Determine the financial loss to you and attach all supporting documentation.

PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS:

- Promptly remove mail from your mailbox after delivery
- Deposit outgoing mail in post office collection boxes or at your local post office. Do not leave in unsecured mail receptacles.
- Never give personal information over the telephone (social security number, date of birth, mother's maiden name, credit card number, or bank PIN) unless you initiated the call. Protect this information and release it only when absolutely necessary.
- Shred pre-approved credit applications, credit card receipts, bills, and other financial information you don't want before discarding them. Use a "cross cut" shredder as opposed to a straight line shredder.
- Order your credit report from the three credit bureaus quarterly to check for fraudulent activity or other discrepancies.
- Never leave receipts at bank machines, bank counters, trash receptacles, or unattended gasoline pumps. Keep track of your paperwork, and destroy it when it is no longer needed.





QUICK REFERENCE TO IDENTITY THEFT (continued from page 1)

By Detective Scott Ingles

PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS: (continued)

- Shield your hand when punching in your PIN number
- Memorize social security number and important passwords. Do not record them on any cards or anything in your wallet or purse.
- Sign all new credit cards upon receipt
- Save all credit card receipts in a secure place and match them against your monthly bills
- Notify credit card companies and financial institutions in advance of any change of address or phone number
- Never loan credit cards to anyone
- Never put your credit card or any other financial account number on a postcard or the outside of an envelope
- If you applied for a credit card and it hasn't arrived in a timely manner, contact the bank or credit card company involved
- Report all lost and stolen credit cards immediately
- Closely monitor expiration dates on your credit cards. Contact the credit card issuer if replacement cards are not received prior to the expiration dates
- Beware of mail, telephone, or internet solicitations disguised as promotions offering instant prizes or awards that require personal information to be disclosed

ADDITIONAL TIPS:

The internet is a great source of information, just be sure of where that information is coming from. Check the information against several web sites and if you are unsure, don't use it. If there are any questions or concerns contact your local law enforcement agencies.

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HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

As Halloween approaches, we need to remember a few tips to stay safe:

- Wear a costume that makes it easier for you to walk, see and be seen.
- Select costumes, masks, wigs or beards made of flame retardant materials
- Avoid flimsy, lightweight fabrics and costumes with billowing skirts or loose baggy sleeves.
- To be seen easily, use retro-reflective tape on your costume.
- Use makeup instead of a mask. A mask may keep you from seeing well, so make sure to take it off before crossing the street.
- Plan your trick or treat route ahead of time. Pick well lighted streets.
- Ask a parent, older brother or sister to trick or treat with you.
- If someone older cannot go with you, trick or treat with a group.
- Tell your family on which streets you will be trick or treating.
- It's best to trick or treat when there is still light outside.
- If you must go at night, make sure your costume is a light color.
- Carry a flashlight with you, so you can see and be seen easily.
- Cross only at corners. Never cross between parked cars or mid-blocks.
- If there are no sidewalks, always walk facing traffic.
- Keep dry cornstalk and other flammable decorations away from sources of heat.
- Wait until you get home to sort, check and eat your treats.
- HAVE FUN!





San Rafael Police Department

“PROTECTING THE MISSION CITY”

THE PARENT PROJECT, Sr. RETURNS TO SAN RAFAEL

By YSB Supervisor Rebecca Kuga, MFT

This award-winning curriculum was developed over a period of 20 years, working with hundreds of thousands of families with high-risk youth. Parent Project, Sr. ® is designed to meet the specific needs of parents raising strong-willed or out-of-control adolescents. SRPD, through the Youth Services Bureau, will once again be offering this program to parents in early 2010.

In this interactive program, parents will learn how they can best influence their child’s choices through behavioral interventions that begin at home. Parents will meet once a week for ten (10) weeks and covers such topics as:

- Drugs and alcohol use
- Gang involvement
- Poor school attendance
- Low school performance
- Running away

Many parents are finding that traditional approaches to parenting just aren’t working. Don’t ever give up on yourself or your child! There is always hope for parents who are struggling to keep their children safe, strong and successful!

Classes will begin soon and the program is for parents of kids ages 11 – 18. For more information, call Rebecca Kuga, MFT and Program Supervisor of the Youth Services Bureau at 415-485-3025.

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SRPD’s NEW WEBSITE IN THE WORKS

By Officer Justin Graham

The San Rafael Police Department is currently working to improve upon its existing website at www.srpd.org. We have listened to community concerns and suggestions about the information that is expected and how it is delivered. We also know that the current website format just has not been able to keep up with the information age.

The changes will be bold and striking while making it very simple to use. Our goal is to provide as much information as quickly as possible with frequent updates. The new website is expected to debut by January 2010, hopefully sooner.

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TEENS AND SRPD YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

By Officer Kyle Hornstein

The San Rafael Police Department strives to steer the children of our community away from the perils of drug and alcohol abuse and the criminal behavior that is often associated with these activities. With one of the highest teen drinking rates in the country, Marin County is also dealing with the growing popularity of Oxycontin, a synthetic form of heroin. The substance abuse pattern we observe in San Rafael begins with early introduction to alcohol followed by marijuana use, and culminates with the destructive nature of Oxycontin addiction. This lifestyle leads to other criminal behaviors such as theft, drug dealing and other high risk activities. To combat these problems, the San Rafael Police Department’s goal is to identify the behavior at the very beginning and help put kids back on the right track.

The Department’s Youth Services Bureau, or YSB, was created to accomplish that goal. The bureau is the only one of its kind in Marin County and works with over five hundred kids a year. First-time offenders of non-violent crimes, such as possession of, or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, vandalism, theft, and running away from home, are cited by the responding officer and released to their parents. The citation is then diverted to YSB instead of the juvenile courts. This is an effort to keep first-time offenders out of the criminal system and into a customized behavior modification program.

Once in the program, the youths are assigned to specific community service projects, based on the type of offense committed, and attend individual and family counseling sessions. If drug rehabilitation or other services are required, the counselors assist in matching the youth and the parents with the appropriate program and also offer a sliding scale payment plan for on-going counseling as needed. In addition, the bureau has four on-site counselors assigned to various schools throughout the city. By working with the kids in the early stages of substance abuse and criminal behavior, we are able to provide the targeted resources necessary to help prevent addiction and foster good decision making skills.

For more information about the YSB program, please contact Program Supervisor Rebecca Kuga at 415-485-3025.

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WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT GANGS

By Detective Ryan Cogbill

WHAT IS A GANG?

A gang may be defined as a group of three or more individuals involved in criminal behavior that instills fear and intimidation in the community. A gang is a group of people with a common identity. What distinguishes a gang from a legitimate group (e.g. a baseball team) is that gangs will engage in criminal activity in the name of the group.

IS BEING A GANG MEMBER A CRIME?

No. Just being a gang member, wearing the clothing and hanging around other gang members is not a crime. However, these things do help Law Enforcement Officers validate that a person is a gang member, which can result in more stringent punishments if a crime is committed by that validated gang member to promote or benefit their gang.

WHAT GANGS DO WE HAVE IN SAN RAFAEL?

The two largest gangs that are in San Rafael are the Nortenos (Northerner's) and Surenos (Southerner's). Although they represent Northern and Southern California, both gangs can be found all over Northern California. There are two different, "Clicks," (groups) of Sureno gang members in San Rafael. These are 18th Street and Mara Salvatrucha-13 (MS-13). Although both 18th Street and MS-13 are both Sureno gangs, they are rivals on the streets.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF MY CHILD OR TEEN IS ASSOCIATING WITH A GANG?

Check your child's clothing, backpacks, cell phones, notebooks and social networking sites (My Space, Facebook, Twitter) for signs and symbols in "Gangs in San Rafael" descriptions.

WHAT CAN I DO IF MY CHILD OR TEEN IS ASSOCIATING WITH A GANG?

Monitor their social networking sites and cell phones. Do not allow them to have any of the gang related signs and symbols on them. Do not allow them to have any of the gang related clothing. Always know what they are doing, when they are doing it and who they are doing it with. Get to know all of their friends. There is an abundant amount of information and help on the internet regarding gangs. Educate yourself so that you can prevent your child from becoming involved with a gang. The more involved they become, the harder it is for them to become uninvolved.

GANGS IN SAN RAFAEL:

Surenos

Color- Blue

Numbers- 13, XIII, X3

Clothing- Sports jersey's or shirts with the number 13, Blue belts with "13" or "S" on the belt buckle, Shoes with blue laces, Blue "Dew rags," Blue hats with "13," "S," or "X3" on them.

Tattoos- Any of the above numbers and letters anywhere on the body. One small dot on one hand, eye or elbow, and three small dots on the opposite hand, eye or elbow.

18th Street (Surenos)

Color- Blue

Numbers- 18, XV3, XVIII, 666(6+6+6=18)

Clothing- Sports jersey's or shirts with the number 18 or 81(18 backwards), Blue belts with "18" or "S" on the belt buckle, Shoes with blue laces, Blue "Dew rags," Blue hats with "18," "S," or "XV3" on them.

Tattoos- Any of the above numbers and letters anywhere on the body. One small dot on one hand, eye or elbow, and three small dots on the opposite hand, eye or elbow. The word "BEST," (Barrio Eighteen Street.)

MS-13 (Surenos)

Color- Blue

Numbers- 13, XIII, X3

Clothing- Sports jersey's or shirts with the number 13, Blue belts with "13" or "MS" on the belt buckle, Shoes with blue laces, Blue "Dew rags," Blue hats with "13," "MS," or "X3" on them.

Tattoos- Any of the above numbers and letters anywhere on the body. A picture of the Devil's Pitchfork. (This is commonly seen at rock concerts, a hand with the pointer finger and pinky finger up and the thumb holding the index finger and ring finger down.)

Nortenos

Color-Red

Numbers- 14, XIV, X4

Clothing- Sports jersey's or shirts with the number 14, Red belts with "14" or "N" on the belt buckle, Shoes with red laces, Red "Dew rags," Red hats with "14," "N," or "X4" on them.

Tattoos- Any of the above numbers and letters anywhere on the body. One small dot on one hand, eye or elbow, and four small dots on the opposite hand, eye or elbow. A picture of a Huelga Bird. (This is commonly seen on the flags for the United Farmworkers of America.) A picture of a star, which represents the North Star. (Nortenos are from Northern California)

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San Rafael Police Department

“PROTECTING THE MISSION CITY”

CITY ENACTS SOCIAL HOST ORDINANCE

By School Resource Officer Harry Barbier

In September of 2007 the City of San Rafael adopted a new municipal code section called the Social Host Ordinance. This law was designed to handle juvenile alcohol parties in the city.

This ordinance as well as other similar ordinances adopted in other jurisdictions in Marin was spearheaded after a juvenile alcohol related party that was held in Novato in December of 2005. Several juveniles who had been drinking at this birthday party, left in a vehicle and they subsequently were involved in a traffic accident by Stafford Lake that took the lives of two of the teenagers.

After this accident happened, cities and the County of Marin started to look at adopting an ordinance that could be used to curb such activities. Research showed that juveniles in Marin County have one of the highest drinking rates in the State of California. In addition, it was found that underage and binge drinking within the county showed that 75% of teenagers who drink alcohol often drink at private house parties.

An ordinance was put together to combat this problem and it was passed by the City Council in September, 2007. The ordinance holds homeowners and juveniles responsible if they serve alcohol to minors in their residences. The home owner does not have to be present to be in violation of this ordinance. This law is designed to punish violators either through criminal or civil procedures, depending on the details of the violation.

Persons who violate this ordinance would be subject to civil fines ranging from \$250 up to \$375 and they could also be held responsible for reimbursing the cost of the time of the officers who respond to break up and investigate the party.

Since its enactment, we have only used the ordinance two times. Interestingly, after the ordinance was passed and received a good deal of press coverage, our calls to such parties dropped dramatically. It appears that it has become a good preventive tool to keep our young people safe. For more information contact our Juvenile Officer at 485-3430.

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FALL 2009 AND WINTER 2010 OFFICER LINE-UP

Dayshift Teams:

Team 1:

Sunday - Wednesday 5am-5pm
Sergeant Cron
General Patrol - Corporal MacDougald
Beat 1 - Officer Drolla
Beat 2 - Officer Sabido
Beat 3 - Officer Casalnuovo
Beat 4 - Officer Horvath
Beat 5 - Officer LaPlante
Beat 6 - Officer E. Cogbill
Beat 7 - Officer Piombo

Team 2:

Thursday - Sunday 5am-5pm
Sergeant Bean
General Patrol - Corporal Reese
Beat 1 - Officer O'Toole
Beat 2 - Officer Huot
Beat 3 - Officer Duncan
Beat 4 - Officer DeMarta
Beat 5 - Officer Hornstein
Beat 6 - Officer Poehlman
Beat 7 - Officer Chiu

Nightshift Teams:

Team 3:

Sunday - Wednesday 5pm-5am
Sergeant Aguilar
General Patrol - Corporal Byers
Beat 1 - Officer Prince
Beat 2 - Officer Graham
Beat 3 - Officer Camins (3pm - 3am)
Beat 4 - Corporal Eberle
Beat 5 - Officer Diaz
Beat 6 - Officer Collins (3pm - 3am)
Beat 7 - Officer Garrett

Team 4:

Thursday - Sunday 5 pm-5am
Sergeant Clary
General Patrol - Corporal Berringer
General Patrol - Corporal Leon
Beat 1 - Officer Adams
Beat 2 - Officer Schikore
Beat 3 - Officer Augustyn
Beat 4 - Officer Huber
Beat 5 - Officer Larkey
Beat 6 - Officer Patterson
Beat 7 - Officer Ruggles

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SAN RAFAEL STARTS NATIONWIDE FIGHT AGAINST RED LIGHT RUNNING

30 DAY WARNING PERIOD BEGINS

The construction of San Rafael's new red light camera system is complete and a 30 day warning period is projected to begin on or about October 1st. This is the first red light camera enforcement program in Marin County.

It is the goal of the San Rafael Police Department to continually improve the quality of law enforcement services provided to the community. In an ongoing effort to improve Police service and quality of life in an efficient manner, the Police Department has been incorporating new technology whenever possible.

On October 1, 2009 the City of San Rafael began their Red Light Photo Enforcement Program (RLPEP) in an effort to reduce red-light related accidents and violations. The first intersection to be equipped with the red-light camera system is a dual approach and is located at Third St. and Irwin St. The system will capture red-light violations and warning notices will be mailed to violators for 30 days. After the 30 day warning period, starting on October 31, 2009, citations will be issued for red light violations. Every intersection being monitored by the automated red-light camera system will be marked by an advisory street sign, notifying approaching traffic the intersection is being monitored.

The City utilizes the service of Redflex Traffic Systems Inc, based in Scottsdale, Arizona. Redflex Traffic Systems provide and install camera equipment and software for the red-light camera enforcement program. Automated red-light safety enforcement programs using cameras have proven to be an effective tool in reducing red-light incidents and collisions caused by red-light violations.

The San Rafael Police Department manages and controls the Red-light program. A San Rafael Police Department designee reviews and approves each citation that is issued. All violators will receive a citation with a copy of the photographs. A convicted red-light violation will have the penalty of 1 point on the offender's driving record. The San Rafael Police Department will be issuing citations for "straight-through," left-turn and right-turn red-light violations. When a motorist makes a right-turn on a red-light and does not make a complete stop at the limit line prior to doing so, a red-light violation has occurred. When a violation is captured, the cameras takes a total of four (4) photographs and a 12 second video of the violation (Citizens may notice several flashes in the intersection when the cameras are taking photographs of a violation). A "Notice to Appear" is mailed to the red-light offender. The left-hand side of the "Notice to Appear" includes the registered owner's information, date to appear in court and contact information. The right side has four pictures of the red-light incident. The first picture shows the vehicle behind the limit line when the light is red. The second picture shows the vehicle continuing through the intersection while the light is red. The third image shows the driver of the vehicle and the fourth photo will show a close up of the rear license plate. Citizens receiving citations can view video of the violation on the Internet for 60 days from the date of the violation at www.photonotice.com. Citizens that do not have access to the Internet can call 415.458.2395 to schedule a viewing appointment.

Traffic School is available if the violator is eligible, and information can be obtained through the Marin Superior Court at, 415.499.6238. If a violator has received a red-light citation and would like to see the video of the violation, they can call 415.458.2395 to schedule video viewings with a representative from the San Rafael Police Department or you can log onto www.photonotice.com to view your violation. The violator will need the citation number, vehicle license plate, and the City of San Rafael access code ("SRAFCA") to view the video online. If you have any questions about the red-light camera system, please contact the Red Light Photo Enforcement Officer at 415-458-2395, or email 467@SRPD.org.

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San Rafael Police Department

“PROTECTING THE MISSION CITY”

IMPORTANT POLICE PHONE NUMBERS

HOW TO CONTACT US

Emergency

9-1-1
485-3393

Non-Emergency	485-3000
Community Oriented Policing	485-3114
Traffic	485-3034
Abandoned Vehicles	485-3033
Alarm Permits	485-3114
Investigators	485-3000
Youth Services Bureau	485-3025

By Mail:
1400 Fifth Avenue
P.O. Box 151560
San Rafael, CA 94901

By Phone:
Phone: 415-485-3000
Fax: 415-485-3044

Or on the World Wide Web:
E-mail: COPS@srpd.org
Internet: www.srpd.org



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