

San Rafael Police Department

FALL 2010 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
VOLUME IV, ISSUE II

ARTICLES

Generous Little Girl
Supports Camp Chance

Officer Sabido's
Humanitarian Trip to Haiti

Lock Your Car!
&
Marking Your Belongings

Camp Chance Update

Santa Cop

SRPD's New Beat Structure

On the Cover:

SRPD's "Mission City" Police Boat
participates in the Fleet Week events by
providing perimeter security for the air
show and parade of ships.
Photo by Officer Graham



"PROTECTING THE MISSION CITY"

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



San Rafael Police Department

“PROTECTING THE MISSION CITY”

MEET ONE GENEROUS LITTLE GIRL

By Rebecca Kuga, MFT



Chief Matt Odetto, Rosie Cohen and her Mom, Toni Grimes

For years we've written about the “magic” that happens at Camp Chance, when at-risk, underserved kids from our community get the opportunity to enjoy a week of traditional summer camp activities at Walker Creek Ranch.

“The Ranch” has a four-acre swimming pond, over 20 miles of hiking trails and a nature museum. Staff includes trained counselors and naturalists who provide around-the-clock supervision, in addition to directing various camp activities.

San Rafael Police, in partnership with the Marin County Sheriff's Office, offer the kids interactive law enforcement presentations while continuing their role of building trust and rapport with the kids. And all this magic happens because of private citizens and business owners in the community who support Camp Chance through financial contributions. Even despite these difficult financial times, we received support from almost 300 individuals and businesses.

This, then, is the story of a very special Camp Chance donor named Rosie Cohen, who lives in San Rafael. She received our annual fundraising letter in the mail and was very taken by the photos of the children participating in the various activities. Rosie has very fond memories of camp and it grieved her to hear that there were children in our community who might never experience the joys of a

summer program because their parents can't afford to send them.

So, Rosie decided to donate to Camp Chance. What makes Rosie's story unique; however, is that Rosie Cohen is six years old, she's a first-grader at a local school so she couldn't read the newsletter herself but asked her mother, Toni Grimes, to explain “what the words said.” Rosie then asked her mom if she could offer a donation from her “helping others” box.

Imagine our surprise to receive a large envelope addressed to Camp Chance, which contained the ubiquitous pink donation envelope filled with coins and folded dollar bills! In response to this very special donation, we invited Rosie and her mother to come to the police department and offer her donation to Chief Matt Odetto in person. We gave them a tour of the station and Rosie particularly enjoyed seeing a patrol car and hearing about how it all works from Officer Marc LaPlante.

Rosie's generosity and kindness towards other children epitomizes the spirit and intention of Camp Chance – to offer our youth a better future by helping them stay on a positive path. Our heartfelt thanks to Rosie and her family!!



Youth Services Bureau Supervisor Rebecca Kuga, Toni Grimes, Rosie Cohen and Officer Marc LaPlante

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“PROTECTING THE MISSION CITY”

SRPD OFFICER RETURNS FROM HUMANITARIAN RELIEF TRIP TO HAITI

By Officer Thomas Sabido



Tom reported that the soccer game was as serious as the “World Cup.” He said the competition between teams was fierce and surprisingly technical considering the location and condition of the make-shift field.

The needs are still great in Haiti. Thousands are still living in make-shift tents along the street.



Next year, Officer Sabido hopes to take 100 people from Marin to build homes in Haiti (like the ones depicted here) for the millions of homeless survivors.

SRPD Officer Tom Sabido and his son Dominic, along with five other men from BayMarin Community Church in San Rafael, recently traveled to Haiti to provide Relief Aid for those displaced by the devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12th, 2010.

Tom’s trip was made possible by the generous contributions from citizens, the San Rafael Police Officers Association, the San Rafael Police Mid-Managers Association, and the San Rafael Firefighters Association.

During their trip, the team partnered with a Haitian-based non-profit organization: Homes for Haiti/RMI Ministries (<http://www.rminet.org/>), to build church benches, and hand out Relief Aid Food packages to hundreds of needy people.



Officer Sabido also met the local Chief of Police. During their meeting, the Chief of Police graciously offered Tom his hat badge.

The team distributed soccer balls, sports equipment and jump ropes to the children. The group visited a senior’s facility where they met a woman who was 107 years old!

During their stay in Haiti, Officer Sabido’s group participated in an impromptu soccer game with teenage boys from one of the neighborhoods.



For additional photos about the Homes For Haiti Program, follow this link: <http://picasaweb.google.com/ReciprocalMinistries/HomesForHaitiFirstHomesForHaitianRefugees#>

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“PROTECTING THE MISSION CITY”

LOCK YOUR CAR!

By Officer Scott Ingels

When I bought my first car and started driving, my Dad gave me some of the best advice I have ever received. He said, “Don’t leave anything in your car you don’t mind losing.” When I was the victim of my first break in during college, I instantly knew what he meant, and I kicked myself for not following his advice.

Theft from vehicles is one of the most prevalent crimes we deal with in Law Enforcement. It is possibly also one of the crimes we solve the least. Often enough we can recover some stolen property, but arrests and successful prosecutions are few and far between. And, most of the time you don’t want the property back in the condition we find it.

San Rafael experiences its fair share of thefts from vehicles, but the SRPD has noticed a trend that is not so common. San Rafael experiences more than its share of theft that occur when the vehicle is unlocked. When I talk to my family members who live outside of Marin County, I never hear them say that they left their car on the street unlocked, let alone with a lot of personal items in it. Also, they never leave valuable items in plain view.

Theft from motor vehicles can be attributed to many things including drug addiction. However, it can also be considered a crime of opportunity perpetuated by someone who is just bored and greedy.

The SRPD recommends the following when trying to protect yourself against theft from your vehicle.

1. Lock your car anytime you leave it. San Rafael is not immune from people walking the streets checking doors for a quick score. There is not a single neighborhood in Marin County whose residents have not been the victims of theft from vehicles. Make sure all the windows are rolled up.
2. Never leave valuable items in plain view. Bring your GPS, iPod, CD’s, laptop computer, purse, wallet and all bags in the house with you when you park. If you do not bring them in the house, at least put them in the trunk. Take your keys out of the car when you park.
3. Never leave anything in your car you are not willing to live without or replace. This includes the lip balm and candy in the center console. Remember, one man’s trash is another man’s treasure.

Some other protective measures include parking in well lit areas and/or parking near the motion lights around your house. When possible, park in a secure area such as your garage.

It may only happen once or twice in a lifetime, but theft from your vehicle is annoying. With a few simple steps you can greatly minimize the risk that you will become a victim.

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MARK YOUR BELONGINGS

By Officer Scott Ingels

Nothing is worse than showing up to a home or vehicle burglary and asking the victim what they are missing, only to hear an answer similar to “I don’t know.” It is extremely important to know what items you own in case you are ever the victim of a theft. Marking and inventorying your property can be easier than you think.

When stolen property is recovered by Law Enforcement Agencies across the Country, the search for a victim begins. Police can run serial numbers through computerized databases or call names and numbers found on cards and papers. But nothing is easier than having a name and other identifying number written directly on the item.

It is important for our citizens to know that Dell and Apple make and sell thousands of laptop computers a year. It is hard to tell one from the other without a serial number or identifying feature. Also, when an Officer locates something that they think is stolen, they can’t necessarily seize the item unless they can prove it is stolen. This is not as easy as it sounds and can be very difficult at three in the morning with no one to talk to.

At my house, I mark most of my items with a permanent ink pen. I put my first initial, last name and my California driver’s license number. All of these identifying marks are clearly recognizable to an officer who may come across my property. A simple DMV records check, and the Officer can have my home address where they can contact me. If you prefer not to use a license number, put your name and a cell phone number.

Computers and digital cameras have provided, in my mind, the easiest method yet for tracking your belongings. For roughly \$20 I purchased home inventory software. The software allows me to enter an item along with several pictures. I can add when and where the item was purchased, the dollar amount and where in my house it is located. Most importantly, I can enter the make, model and serial number. The software then creates a document which can be printed or burned to a CD. When and if something is stolen, I can provide Law Enforcement with a detailed list of what is missing including pictures (pictures are invaluable when proving ownership). I have also created a video of my entire household. It took no more than 30 minutes and is a detailed record of what I own. A simple search of the internet will provide you with the names of several versions of home inventory software. The SRPD does not recommend any specific software, but remember that whatever you will actually use is the best bet.

I have been told by victims that a detailed record of ownership has proven valuable after tragic occurrences such as a fire or flood. Dealing with the insurance company will be much easier if you can hand them a CD of everything that has been lost or damaged.

As a Property Crimes Detective I know that I found some stolen property that I was never able to return due to the fact that I could not find the victim. Don’t let this happen to you. Mark your items and be prepared.

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San Rafael Police Department

“PROTECTING THE MISSION CITY”

CAMP CHANCE

By Rebecca Kuga, MFT



CSI Officer Phil Melodia and Detective Blair Auld help campers with fingerprinting.

For the week of July 12 – 16, fifty-one (51) boys and girls, ages 11 – 13, from San Rafael, Marin City and West Marin gathered at Walker Creek Ranch for the 12th annual Camp Chance, a summer camp program designed for at-risk and undeserved youth.

This year we added a new component to the program by introducing the Junior Counselor-In-Training (Jr. CIT) position. Our goal is to keep kids connected to Camp Chance by creating opportunities for kids who either age-out or have attended in the past and are interested in a new challenge.

This year our six Jr. CIT's (3 boys and 3 girls) assisted the camp counselors in facilitating activities, which included archery, canoeing, swimming and nature hikes. In addition to camping with the kids, SRPD and the Marin Sheriff's Office law enforcement staff gave interactive presentations, the Youth Services Bureau staff facilitated counseling groups to help kids talk about and deal with bullying behaviors, and the CHP helicopter landed in the softball field to the delight of all present.

Camp Chance 2010 is over but the memories and friendships continue long afterward!

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IMPORTANT POLICE PHONE NUMBERS

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

THE HISTORY OF SANTA COP

By Dispatcher Lori Hendricks

Organized in 2000 to help needy children during The Christmas holiday season, the San Rafael Santa Cop program was designed to help children who were missed by other programs due to circumstances beyond their control to have a festive and merry Christmas.

The Police and Fire Departments, through their community contacts, are familiar with children who are from families with difficult financial situations as well as difficult family situations. The high cost of living and jobs with lower pay rates in San Rafael cause added burdens of raising a family in this area.

The San Rafael Police Department, San Rafael Police Association, San Rafael Fire Department, San Rafael Fire Association, and the North Bay Footprint Chapter saw this need to help these less fortunate children. They formed a group that collected toys and food and distributed these at Christmas time. In the second year of the program, money was collected to buy a set of clothes for each child.

The backing of the City of San Rafael and its businesses and residents kept this program growing and last year in 2009, they provided toys, food, and clothing for over 750 children and 225 families received a holiday meal donated by The Marin Food Bank. Many of these children are from the Head Start and The Marin Abused Women programs. The families are required to complete an application to ensure they fit the requirements, are cross checked to make sure they are not receiving aid from other programs for the Christmas holiday, and that they are truly in need.

Santa Cop is run entirely by volunteers. There are no paid personnel or positions. There are also no charges or any money or services ever requested from a recipient family. The largest expenditure is for clothing and a few supplies such as wrapping paper, which more than 150 volunteers use to gift wrap all toys and clothing that are distributed along with a holiday meal donated by the Marin Food Bank.

Personnel from the Police and Fire departments, as well as volunteers from the Footprint Chapter and the Army National Guard, deliver the gifts and food to each recipient's home. When a uniformed officer or firefighter knocks on their door, there are emotions of confusion to joy. This interaction between the safety officers and the community builds a bond and trust that is priceless. The families are receiving assistance during a time it is needed the most. The trust and confidence it builds between the families and the safety officers can last a lifetime.

San Rafael Santa Cop is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which allows our supporters to deduct cash donations or the value of other goods from their income tax. If you wish to contact us, visit our web site at www.sanrafaelsantacop.org, follow us on Facebook or write to us at SRSC, P.O. Box 6221, San Rafael, CA 94903-6221.

“Help us keep the magic of Christmas alive for all children”



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SRPD WINTER 2010 - SPRING 2011 BEAT STRUCTURE

By Officer Graham

At the beginning of the Winter 2010 to Spring 2011 patrol rotation, the police department took its seven beat structure and absorbed it into a new six beat structure.

Beat 1 - Downtown

West of B Street to Ross Valley Drive, includes the Sun Valley, Fairhills, West End, and Gerstle Park 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 3 - Canal

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

Beat 4 - East

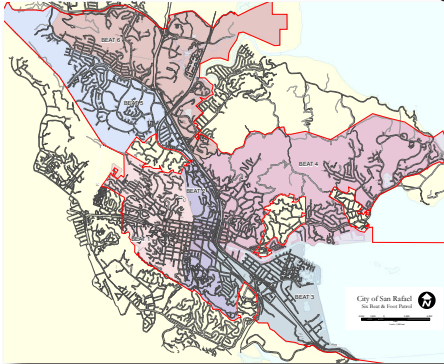
East of the US-101 freeway and Irwin Street to Biscayne Drive and north of the Canal waterfront to the end of Villa Avenue. Includes the Dominican/Black Canyon, Montecito/Happy Valley, Country Club, Loch Lomond, Bayside Acres, Glenwood, and Peacock Gap Neighborhoods.

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 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.



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

Dayshift Teams:

Team 1:

Sunday - Wednesday 5am-5pm
Sergeant Spaletta
General Patrol - Corporal Holton
Beat 1 - Officer LaPlante
Beat 2 - Officer Sabido
Beat 3 - Officer Ingels
Beat 4 - Officer Henkle
Beat 5 - Officer Demarta
Beat 6 - Officer Piombo

Team 2:

Thursday - Sunday 5am-5pm
Sergeant Vergara
General Patrol - Corporal Reese
Beat 1 - Officer Paxson
Beat 2 - Officer O'Toole
Beat 3 - Officer Chiu
Beat 4 - Officer Adams
Beat 5 - Officer Poehlman
Beat 6 - Officer Camins

Nightshift Teams:

Team 3:

Sunday - Wednesday 5pm-5am
Sergeant Bean
General Patrol - Corporal Byers
Beat 1 - Officer Prince
Beat 2 - Officer Graham
Beat 3 - Officer Cogbill
Beat 4 - Officer Castaneda
Beat 5 - Officer Collins
Beat 6 - Officer Casalnuovo
General Patrol - Officer Cleland

Team 4:

Thursday - Sunday 5 pm-5am
Sergeant Clay
General Patrol - Corporal Berringer
Beat 1 - Officer Patterson
Beat 2 - Officer Huot
Beat 3 - Officer Augustyn
Beat 3 - Officer Larkey
Beat 4 - Officer MacDougald
Beat 5 - Officer Bowker
Beat 6 - Officer Holm

