

San Rafael Police Department

SPRING 2011 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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RETIREMENTS & PERSONNEL UPDATES

Personnel Updates:

After 4 years in investigations, Officer Blair Auld has transferred to Patrol.

Officer Kim Larkey transferred from Patrol to Investigations as a detective.

Officer Justin Schraeder and Officer James Bellamy transferred to Patrol from Traffic.

Officer Ken Poehlman and Officer Ryan Cogbill have been promoted to Corporal.

HNT:

With two retirements in the past few years, the Hostage Negotiation team welcomed three new members. Corporal Ken Poehlman and Officer Joe Camins were chosen, and Youth Services Bureau Supervisor Rebecca Kuga was brought on as a consultant.

Corporal Ken Poehlman comes to the team with 32 years of police experience. He was one of the original members of the Marin County Task Force. He has worked for the Santa Rosa Police Department, San Francisco District Attorney's Office, and came to work at SRPD in July 2007. He has a B.S. in Social Science and an MA in Organizational development. He has been married for 27 years and has 2 daughters.

Officer Joe Camins has been a police officer for 6 years after 15 years in private industry and working in IT services. He began his police career at Burlingame Police Department and came to San Rafael in September 2006. His hobbies include martial arts, tennis, cycling and snorkeling. Joe has been married for 14 years and has 3 children.

Rebecca Kuga is our Youth Services Supervisor. Rebecca is a marriage and family therapist with a Masters degree in counseling psychology. She has been the supervisor of the Youth Services Bureau since 2006. She supervises the clinical internship program, including the juvenile diversion program and Camp Chance. Her clinical specialty areas include

adolescents and parenting, managing life transitions, critical incident stress management, substance abuse and recovery.

The other members of the team are Lieutenant Ralph Pata, Sergeant Chris Coale, Officer Tom Sabido, Officer Marc LaPlante, Officer Dennis Prince and PSS Peggy Ruge.

Retirements:

JOEL FAY started his law enforcement career in 1975. Joel's police assignments have included SWAT, Canine, Patrol, Investigations, Street Crimes Unit, Mental Health Liaison Officer, Hostage Negotiator and Downtown Bike & Foot Patrol.

After several years in police work, Joel saw a need in the community. Joel put it this way, "As I was growing older in my law enforcement career, I recognized that so much of what we do involves psychology, whether it's sitting down with someone who you have just arrested or out in the field trying to talk somebody into peacefully surrendering." So, Joel earned a doctoral degree in clinical psychology, and developed new ways of doing police work in Marin County.

One example is the Marin County Forensic Multi-Disciplinary Team (FMDT). The team - made up of representatives from community agencies, such as health and mental health centers, the district attorney's office, probation officers and housing programs – meet monthly. The FMDT team develops a plan to provide the individual with the necessary services and reviews the progress of each case the following month. Joel also helped develop the Marin County Mental Health (STAR) Court.

Joel also saw a need in the law enforcement community. As a police officer, we are exposed to high levels of stress from traumatic critical incidents – which can have a negative effect on our lives. In 2001, Joel and other First Responders founded the West Coast Post-Trauma Retreat (WCPR).

The primary goal of WCPR is to reduce the effects of a traumatic critical incident on the individual's life. WCPR provides the public safety worker with tools to reduce family stress, make appropriate career decisions and reduce depression and anxiety levels.

Joel retired from the San Rafael Police Department in 2011, after serving in Law Enforcement for over 32 years. Joel has



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received several awards from his work with the mentally ill. In 2009, Joel was awarded the Christine M. West Award by



the Forensic Mental Health Association of California (FMHAC) at their annual conference. The Marin County Board of Supervisors recently honored Joel for his advocacy and his accomplishments in serving the mentally ill and the community as a whole. Joel was presented with a formal resolution and given a key to the County.

OFFICER JOEL FAY In retirement, Joel keeps busy with his work at WCPR, teaching Peer Support to Law Enforcement, and building his psychotherapy business. In his spare time, Joel enjoys riding his bicycle on the hills of Marin County.

JONATHAN BEAN began his watch over the City of San Rafael on December 30, 1979. Over the last 31 years Sgt. Bean has served faithfully to the residents of San Rafael. He has participated in the community personally and professionally.

Sgt Bean has worked many assignments to include juvenile officer. Sgt. Bean was promoted from the rank of officer to Sergeant in December of 1986. He has served as sergeant for 24 years. He has served as a patrol sergeant, detective sergeant and as a community policing sergeant.



SGT. JONATHAN BEAN

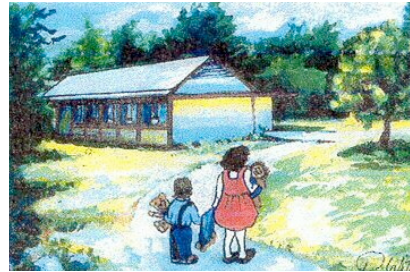
Sgt. Bean received the prestigious Jefferson Award for his continued work with the SRPD AED program.

His service is appreciated and he will be missed. Sgt. Bean retired from his watch on March 31, 2011.

Jeanette Prandi Children’s Center

By Sgt. Jim Correa

THE Jeannette Prandi Children’s Center was established in 1997 as a safe place to interview children and teenagers who have been or may have been physically or sexually abused



who can be interviewed in an environment designed with their comfort in mind. Interviews are conducted by specialized forensic interviewers who have attended courses to qualify to conduct the interviews.

The interviewers are typically detectives, police officers, and social workers from Child Protective Services. In the past, victims were interviewed separately by each agency involved in the investigation, Police, District Attorney, and Child Protective Service. This was traumatic to victims as they had to re-live the facts of the case over and over again.

The forensic interviewer will conduct the recorded interview in the victim friendly room. The other people involved will observe the interview from the observation. After the interviewer completes the interview, the observers can add additional questions they believe are relevant. The observers communicate when necessary with the forensic interviewer through a listening device in her/his ear. After the interview is completed, the victim and their family are assisted by counselors and advocates assigned to the Center. In 2010, the San Rafael PD conducted 24 interviews, 32% of all the interviews conducted.

If you are interested in making a tax-deductible contribution to the Jeannette Prandi Children’s Center, the contact information is listed below (Tax ID number is available on request). If you have any additional questions or comments please feel free to contact Dr. Michael Grogan (415) 499-3750 or director@prandicenter.org.

**To Make a Tax Deductible Contribution
Visit:**

<http://www.prandicenter.org/contributions.htm>



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Traffic Division

By Sgt. Christopher Coale

As of the spring rotation, three of the four motorcycle officers have been rotated back to patrol. This leaves one motor unit dedicated to traffic enforcement. Although all officers have traffic enforcement as part of their duties, the motorcycle officers can direct their efforts to specific complaint areas and problems.

As the weather improves, the DUI/Unlicensed Driver enforcement activities will begin again at an accelerated pace. Grant funding allows operations such as checkpoints, strike teams, warrant sweeps, and intersection safety operations.



We enforced a distracted driving campaign for the month of April that targeted cell phone and texting violations, and in May “Click It or Ticket” for seatbelt violations. This is also grant funded.



“Toward Zero Deaths, Every 1 Counts.”

San Rafael PD Website

By Officer Alex Holm

On June 15, 2010, the San Rafael Police Department launched a new website. Our goal was to create a web presence that provides easy to find information, and constant updates, keeping you informed. Our website has been a success, with over 100,000 page views since it’s launch. We’re not done yet. The website is and will always be a work in

progress, with constant updates and new features.

One of our most recent additions is a Silent Witness Tip Form (www.srpd.org/tips), which allows people to anonymously provide information about criminal activity within the City of San Rafael. Although tipsters can remain anonymous if they choose to do so, keep in mind that anonymous tips may hold less weight for taking action, such as obtaining search warrants. There is a feature on the form which allows the user to choose a secret phrase that is only known to the tipster and the police. This will allow SRPD to correctly identify the user in



the future as the person who provided the tip, if they decide to divulge their identity at a later date.

Please remember that the Silent Witness tip form is not meant to be used to report crimes, or to generate a call for service. If you need immediate police assistance, please call 911 or the non emergency line at (415) 485-3000.

If you would like to receive notifications of press releases, newsletters and emergency information, you can add your e-mail to our mailing list at (<http://www.srpd.org/mail>).

In addition to providing information to the public, we have integrated social media pages such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube to stay in touch with the community. You can even share press releases from our breaking news section on your own Facebook or Twitter account.

Go to www.srpd.org today, and check back often for new and exciting features currently being developed!



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Skimming

By Detective Kyle Hornstein

ACCORDING to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, over fifteen million people fell victim to some form of identity theft in 2010 resulting in billions of dollars of losses and a mountain of stress and anxiety. One of the fastest growing segments of identity theft involves thieves obtaining credit card and ATM card account numbers and PIN numbers by way of skimming devices.

A skimmer is a device that can fit over the card slot of an ATM machine, a gas station credit card slot and other credit card processing machines found in restaurants and other retail locations. While the devices can sometimes be bulky, they are designed to blend into existing apparatus and can go easily undetected by unsuspecting customers. The devices read the magnetic strip of the card being used and capture the account data. At ATM machines and gas stations, these devices are



typically used in concert with a pinhole camera or keypad overlay device, either of which can secure the victim's PIN number. The thief simply retrieves the devices at a later time and use the data to manufacture a duplicate bank card for future ATM cash withdrawals against the victim's account.

This scenario was recently played out in San Rafael where several Chase Bank customers in Terra Linda had money fraudulently withdrawn from their accounts as a result of a skimmer device. While the customer's accounts were ultimately refunded by the bank, many people experienced overdraft and bounced check issues as a result of the fraudulent activity.

Where victims are particularly vulnerable are at restaurants

and other retail locations where your credit card is temporarily out of your sight. In these scenarios, a waiter or a cashier can simply swipe your card through a handheld skimmer and copy the three digit security code on the back of the card all while concealed behind a counter conducting what appears to be a legitimate transaction.

Unfortunately, identity theft is a rising trend that affects all of us. Consider these tips when conducting ATM and credit card transaction so that you can reduce your odds of becoming a victim of a skimmer device:

1. When using a bank ATM machine, inspect the face thoroughly before inserting your card. Look for anything bulky around the card insert area. Check above you and side to side for anything that might resemble a small camera. If something looks suspicious, it probably is.
2. Inspect gas pump credit card inserts in the same manner.
3. If possible, use ATM machines located within the bank branch.
4. Avoid using portable ATM machines in bars and restaurants. These are easy targets for thieves because they are often located out of sight and lack the built in surveillance systems on the bank owned machines.
5. Enroll in a credit protection plan with a credit reporting agency such as Equifax or Trans Union.
6. Avoid, if possible, allowing your credit card out of your sight while making a purchase.





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SRPD Youth Services Bureau

By Rebecca Kuga, MFT

The San Rafael Police Youth Services Bureau (YSB) has been in existence since 1978 and has always been dedicated to serving the youth and families of our community. The mission of the Youth Services Bureau is to keep at-risk youth out of the juvenile justice system and set them on a positive path towards their fulfillment and happiness as good and productive citizens



From left to right:
Jennifer Grellman, MFTI, Nidza Clarke, MFTI, Sarah Snow, Trainee

of society. Our goal is to help youth succeed at home, at school, at work and with peers. The strengthening of the family unit, however small or diverse, is a key to youth success and our staff is highly trained to help make a

difference. YSB counseling interns are counseling psychology graduate students or post-graduates completing the 3000 clinical hours required for licensure. They work under the supervision of the YSB program supervisor, Rebecca L. Kuga, a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. The counseling interns are volunteers who each provide in excess of 800 hours of service annually to the community each year at no cost to the City of San Rafael. We welcome the opportunity to provide services to our citizens and offer the following programs:

First Offender Diversion: The YSB receives approximately 400 juvenile citations annually for teens who committed status (truancy) or non-violent offenses. Intern counselors meet with the juvenile and his/her parent(s) or guardian, discuss any consequences that occurred at home or at school and assign 5 – 25 hours of community service to be completed by the juvenile within a prescribed time period.

On-Site School Counseling: Since 1990 YSB clinical interns offer individual and group counseling to youth at local public middle and high schools and we do this at no charge. We

counsel over 35 students per week on average! Students are referred to us by school staff, SRPD officers and/or parents. In some cases teen self-refer. Presenting issues commonly include mood disorders (depression and self-harming behaviors, such as “cutting”), drug and alcohol abuse and/or dependence, anger management, eating disorders, gangs and trauma in the home, such as domestic violence.

Therapy Services: The YSB offers confidential therapy to individuals, couples and families residing or working in San Rafael and the first six (6) sessions are free. In perhaps a reflection of the economic times, in 2009 – 2010, we have observed a 50% increase in demand for counseling services! Presenting issues include grief and loss, life transitions (loss of job, new school, blended families, etc...), parenting skills, anger management and post-traumatic stress disorder.

In 1999 two adjunct programs were added to the Youth Services Bureau:

Camp Chance: Now in its 13th year, Camp Chance is a 5-day residential summer camp for San Rafael and unincorporated Marin County youth ages 11 to 13. We have sent over 700 children to this unique program! Camp Chance is a partnership between SRPD, Marin County Sheriff’s Office and the Marin County Office of Education, and is held at Walker Creek Ranch. It is designed to offer underserved kids an opportunity to experience camp, interact and build rapport with peace officers, and learn counseling skills, such as anger management, that translate to life skills. Camp Chance is managed by the YSB Program Supervisor and is completely funded through citizen and business donations.

Parent Project®: Parent Project® is a ten-week training program designed specifically for parents of strong-willed or out-of-control adolescents. It is the most comprehensive and effective instruction on high-risk youth available today and has been over twenty-four years in development. In communities that offer the Parent Project®, the number of juveniles on probation for any cause fell by more than 30%! (Parent Project® website) The YSB Program Supervisor is a certified facilitator and it is the preferred model we use to help parents.



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School Resource Officer

Primary Duties

By Cpl. Roy Leon

The School Resource Officer (SRO) is responsible for all criminal acts committed at any of our schools located in the city limits.

One of the primary duties of a SRO is to ensure school safety at all of the campuses, including unwanted persons coming onto school grounds. Other duties could include mediating disputes, conducting searches, and evaluating students for 5150 W&I (person a danger to self or others) holds. The SRO spends a large amount of time investigating crimes committed by juveniles.

The SRO works very closely with the San Rafael Youth Services Bureau (YSB). YSB handles hundreds of citations per year and many are written by the SRO Officer. Other citations are sent to the Juvenile Probation Office.

The SRO patrols around the schools and is active in preventing crimes that are committed during school hours as well as crimes that take place off of school grounds.

The SRO maintains a partnership with staff from all of our schools, the San Rafael School District Office, and the Marin County Office of Education. The SRO also maintains a partnership with the Juvenile Probation Office, Marin County District Attorney's Office, CPS, other schools outside our city, and other law enforcement agencies.

Some of the other duties as a SRO are as follows;

- Participate on School Attendance Review Boards.
- Coordinate all extra duty events at the school, which would require the hiring of officers to work school dances, sporting events, etc.
- Testify at expulsion hearings.
- Conduct juvenile patrols on weekends or Holidays, which consists of working in uniform in an unmarked car responding to juvenile parties.

- Conducting follow up investigations of all juvenile parties involving alcohol. This consists of meeting with the juvenile and their parent and issuing a citation if necessary.
- Receive and review CPS cross reports for physical abuse and conduct investigations and interviews with CPS when necessary.
- Provide various presentations to children of all ages.
- Responsible for the management of all runaway juvenile cases.
- Provide training presentations to school staff.

The current SRO is Corporal Roy Leon. Corporal Leon began his career at the San Rafael Police Department in December of 2002. Past assignments have included the Patrol Bureau and Street Crimes Unit. Corporal Leon has been a member of the SRPD SWAT team for the past seven years. Corporal Leon is a Field Training Officer, a fluent Spanish speaker, a Self Defense and Tactics instructor, a Firearms instructor and he is certified as a gang expert by the Marin County Courts.



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