

SAN RAFAEL POLICE DEPARTMENT

SPRING 2012 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VI ISSUE I



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Welcome Chief Diana Bishop

It has been a busy first three months for our new Chief of Police, Diana Bishop. Since taking office in January, she has held three "meet and greets" throughout the city, met with community leaders and neighborhood groups, and made five promotions in the Department.

Chief Bishop is San Rafael's sixteenth Chief of Police and the first woman to lead the 87 member department. Her selection came after City officials interviewed seven candidates from a pool of 61 applicants for the position. She was the unanimous choice of the interview panel and her appointment was confirmed by the City Council in late December.

Chief Bishop grew up in Los Altos and holds a bachelor's degree in public administration from the University of San Francisco and an executive MPA from Golden Gate University. She began her law enforcement career in 1985 when she joined the Santa Clara Police Department. She rose through the ranks, promoting to Captain in 2006, and served in a wide variety of assignments during her 26 years with that department.

Our new chief says she is "truly honored to join the San Rafael Police Department" and is excited to begin this new chapter in her life and career. One of her first priorities has been to become acquainted with her new team by scheduling a meeting with each member of the department. The Chief spends 30 minutes one-on-one getting to know each person individually and asking their views on department issues. She held a department meeting on March 24 where she discussed the agency's future and her vision of where we are headed.

Chief Bishop has established three top priorities for our police department. They are: working with other community stakeholders to address the growing issue of homelessness in our city; crime in and around the C. Paul Bettini Transit Center; and further strengthening the relationships already established between the police department and the City's neighborhood and community groups.

To that end, SRPD will be participating in the National Night Out (NNO) program. NNO, in its 29th year, is a nationwide crime and drug prevention event that promotes neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.

Chief Bishop looks forward to meeting even more members of the San Rafael community and working with the law enforcement professionals in her department to provide the outstanding service that the public has come to expect.

National Night Out

On Tuesday, August 7, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. neighbors throughout San Rafael are being invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the "29th Annual National Night Out" crime prevention celebration. National Night Out, which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored locally by the San Rafael Police Department, will involve over 9,700 communities in all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases around the world. In all, over 22 million people are expected to participate.

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.

Please join the San Rafael Police Department in this year's fun in giving crime and drugs a going away party. Neighbors are being asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend an evening out with their neighbors and police.

More information in the next few months will be available on our website at www.srpd.org.





Officer Visits Preschool



Officer Elisha Adams

On 2/22/12, Officer Elisha Adams presented to the YMCA preschool in Richmond for his nephew’s classmates. His 5 year old nephew, Amire was happy to see him and show him off. The event surrounded a Black History Month program at the school. Officer Adams provided a show and tell session of his riot gear and a safety speech. He taught the kids helpful ways to avoid being contacted by strangers, and told them ways to contact an adult if a stranger tried to pull them into a car. Most of the kids had never seen a Police Officer up close. When one child cried when he saw him walk in, Officer Adams held the boy, played with him, gave him a sticker, and had breakfast with him. He told them to dream big about where they wanted to go in life. They played a college game that provoked all to join in about seeking higher education. Weeks later, Amire told his Grandmother, “Granny, take me to school because I’m going to college!” Then he started to dance! The presentation will have a lasting affect on their lives.

Got Drugs?

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day is April 28th

On Saturday April 28th between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., the San Rafael Police and Drug Enforcement Administration will host a prescription drug disposal event.

This is a great opportunity for the public to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of unwanted, unused, or expired prescription drugs. During the four hour period you can bring your medications for disposal to the police department. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

For more information, please visit
www.dea.gov or www.srpd.org.

Volunteer Highlight:

Reverend Jan Heglund, 17 years with SRPD

Reverend Jan Heglund has been here at SRPD for the past 17 years. Her official responsibilities as a police chaplain involve trauma counseling for police officers and both crime witnesses and victims. She said she often gets called out to crime scenes simply to act as a “pastoral presence” in a situation. But beyond that, she is also a friend.

She has done counseling for the department and performed 17 of the department’s weddings, four funerals, four house blessings, one cat blessing and two renewal of wedding vows. She has also done many death notifications and been out on suicides, bomb threats, stalking, hostage situations and domestic violence calls. She works with the San Rafael City



Rev. Jan Heglund

Council and helps them with counseling at times of death, and deliver invocations at public events. She enjoys taking part in a presentation at the Citizen’s Police Academy, which has led to many outside invitations such as giving the same presentation at Rotary, SIRS, and other venues.

Reverend Jan is the chaplain for Center for Domestic Peace (MAWS), the local Footprint Association, Returning Vet Support Group at College of Marin and on the Advisory Boards for the Humanities Department at Dominican and Friends of St. Columba in Inverness. She is also in process to become a volunteer with Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT).

She was a founding member, along with Joel Fay, of the West Coast Post Trauma Retreat and continues to be the Chaplain Coordinator for the project. Reverend Jan feels blessed to have gone to Nicaragua, Greece and Africa with Project Grace, an organization that takes women who have lost a child and travel to a foreign country to work on a building project





with the local women and children. She was also the summer supply clergy in Newfoundland for 5 summers. She feels very privileged to be sent by SRPD to work at Ground Zero and was also the chaplain at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. But according to Reverend Jan, probably the most rewarding events of her chaplaincy, was delivering the eulogy for Deputy Jim Mathiesen, who was tragically killed while trying to protect a friend. “It was humbling and an honor”, said Jan.

Reverend Jan is also a chaplain with the San Francisco Division of the FBI and member of the Marin Soroptimists, and an ordained clergy in the Diocese of California where she was ordained at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco in 1994.

Jan is married and has four children and four grandchildren. “It is the most amazing PRIVILEGE to be with the SRPD!” says Jan. We are blessed to have her!

Promotions and Movements

Early this year, the Police department was fortunate enough to hire our new Chief, Diana Bishop. We were also able to make some long held promotions due to retirements and attrition.

Corporal Lisa Holton, Corporal Scott Eberle, and Corporal Roy Leon were promoted to Sergeant. Sergeant Holton has been acting Sergeant since early Fall of 2011, supervising the day shift weekends shift. Sergeants Eberle and Leon have transferred from Investigations to Patrol.

Detective Kyle Hornstein was promoted to Corporal and has transferred from Investigations to Patrol. Officer Scott Ingels was also recently promoted to Corporal.

Detective Phil Melodia has transferred from Investigations to Patrol. Sergeant Mike Vergara, Officer Justin Graham, Officer Marc LaPlante and Corporal Todd Berringer have been promoted to the Investigations bureau. Sergeant Vergara will be supervising the Unit. Detective Graham will investigate Sex Crimes, Detective LaPlante will investigate Property

crimes, and Detective Corporal Berringer will handle Crimes against Persons. Detective Sergeant Jim Correa has moved to the Administrative Professional Standards bureau.

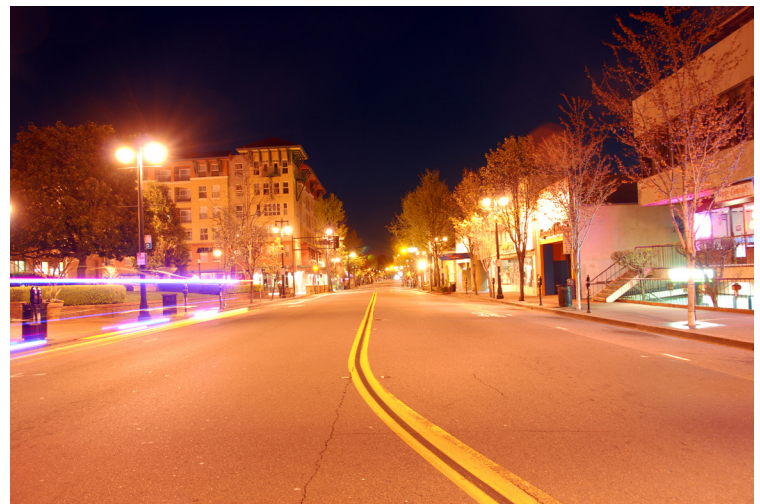
Officer Justin Schraeder and Officer Eric Huot have transferred to the Traffic division and ride the motorcycle.

Lieutenant Dan Fink has transferred to the Night Patrol division, Lieutenant Ralph Pata moved to the Administrative and Support Services Bureau and Lieutenant Glenn McElderry moved to the Investigations Bureau.

Sergeant Dave Cron will be retiring after 25 years at SRPD. Dispatchers Sabrina Olson, Robin Mark-White and Lisa McElroy have all retired after many years of service. Dispatcher Olson and Dispatcher McElroy both have over 30 years experience while Dispatcher Mark-White had 26 years with SRPD. Cadets Valerie Avalon and Abigail McElderry have been promoted to dispatcher.

The Chief’s secretary, Toni Archer retired after 13 1/2 years with the Police Department. We welcome Anita Rose to the position!

Congratulations to our newest Cadet, Trevor Carney, a student at Sonoma State University.



A patrol car responds to an emergency call downtown in the early morning hours.
Photo by Officer Alex Holm





Transit Center Corridor Project Lt. Raffaello Pata

The San Rafael Police Department has identified an increase in violent crime in and around the C. Paul Bettini Transit Center, located in the city’s downtown neighborhood. In an effort to better understand the spike in violent crime, the police department redeployed some officers to better understand the conditions that were contributing to the trend.

As the result of some specific and focused operations in the area, arrests and identification of suspects responsible for some of these crimes, the police department recognized a trend of known offenders who perpetrated a number of crimes in a wider geographic area related to the downtown transit center corridor.

We developed an inclusive program to bring local area stakeholders to meet and discuss the impact on their businesses so we could create an action plan on how to best resolve the problems. The police department wanted to problem-solve this trend with the goal of preventing crime before it happened, rather than respond reactively to just crimes that had already occurred.

In the beginning of February the police department met with members of partner agencies to discuss the problem and try to resolve it. Members of the police department’s Street Crimes Unit, Foot Beat Unit, Detectives and Patrol Teams met with members of the Adult Probation Department, Marin District Attorney, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and other agencies to develop a three phased plan, a short term, intermediate and long-term goal plan.

Shortly after meeting with the partner agencies, the police department invited businesses that had violent and other crimes associated with their premises to a workshop at City Hall. Members including the Golden Gate Bridge and Transportation District participated. Local merchants also volunteered to work with the police department in resolving crimes associated with their businesses and pledged to work in collaboration with the police in reducing the perception of crime with their businesses. In the meeting the police department learned

that several of the suspects they encountered in a variety of contacts and operations had been intimidating and taking over some of the businesses to perpetrate their crimes.

Based on the two meetings, interviews of Golden Gate Transit officials, security representatives at the center as well as neighboring businesses, and review of statistical information, an organized plan was developed. The plan brought all of the partners together to assume roles to help curb the violent and other crimes occurring at the center and in what was identified as the “Transit Center Corridor.”

In March, the police department Street Crimes Unit, Foot Beat and patrol teams, along with Adult and Juvenile Probation, State Parole and Alcoholic Beverage Control launched a high-visibility program and series of undercover operations. Officers in uniform and in plain clothes made a number of contacts half of which resulted in arrests. After four weeks, the result so far has been approximately 79 arrests and over 473 contacts of suspicious people. The arrests were for a variety of offenses including: drug dealing, warrants for violent and property crime violations, sex offender violations, probation violation and for alcohol intoxication. During the operation, five foot chases originated from the transit center involving suspected drug violators and resulted in their arrests.

The department is now in a transitional phase with this operation, and will continue to work with our merchants and outside agencies toward some voluntary change in local business practices as well as some more enforcement of state laws related to alcohol sales and review of local municipal codes.



Photo by Officer Alex Holm

Photo: Officer Brian Patterson issues a citation in downtown San Rafael. Officer Patterson recently received recognition from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for his efforts in DUI enforcement.





Theft in the Workplace

Cpl. Scott Ingels

The first step in preventing theft in the workplace is for us to understand that it does happen, and is more common than we would like to think about. In this article we will discuss two common types of theft in the workplace; theft of personal items and theft of office equipment.

It is important to understand that we should not treat our office, cubicle, desk and lunchroom as we do our own homes. These places should be treated as public places, and we should be taking steps to prevent theft as we would in a restaurant. It is not uncommon for the San Rafael Police Department to receive calls regarding the theft of purses, wallets, cell phones and other electronic devices. More often than not, these items were left unattended and unsecured. The unlocked top drawer of a desk is not a safe place to leave a wallet, cell phone and I-Pod. Neither is the pocket of the jacket hanging on the back of the chair. Behind the files in the bottom drawer is not a secure place to leave a purse. Most crime can be reduced by preventing the opportunity for it to take place.

It is not suggested that you should look over your shoulder all day at the person in the next cube and office, but you do need to understand that the people who call the office their workspace are not the only ones who spend time there. The office is full of clients, cleaning crews, vendors, visitors and even thieves who enter the business to do nothing but look for stuff to steal. Believe it or not, there are thieves whose tactic is to walk the halls of open business offices, often pretending to be “looking for the bathroom” or “coming for a meeting”, but whose true intent is to steal.

Preventing such thefts can be relatively simple. Ensure that you are controlling access to the valuables. Lock your belongings or keep them with you. Using a desk drawer is a good preventative step, providing that the drawer is locked and that you keep the key with you and not on top of the desk. Ensure that the entire staff does not have a copy of the key. If you are leaving the office unattended, lock the door behind you. If your workplace offers a locker, use it and secure it with

your own lock. A small office safe, available at many retailers, is a good option. Ensure that the safe is bolted to the floor or to a sturdy piece of furniture.

As for persons walking the hallways, challenge people you do not recognize. At the SRPD we have identification badges worn on a lanyard. This has become increasingly common in the workplace. If identification badges are present in your workplace, speak with anyone who is not wearing one. You might be amazed at who you will find walking around.

The internet is an invaluable resource for further information. I recommend using your favorite search engine with terms similar to “workplace theft prevention” or “theft in the office.” There are several blogs and articles on the issue. I even found that the United States Department of Agriculture has a physical security information section which deals specifically with theft in the workplace. <http://www.ocio.usda.gov/directives/doc/DM3510-001.htm>

Another common issue is the outright burglary of office equipment such as computers and printers, and the theft of files which contain client’s personal identifying information. It is important to understand that the same principles for prevention apply.

Ensure that when leaving the office all equipment is as secure as it can be. If possible, place laptops in a safe or take them with you. Secure desktop computers to a sturdy piece of furniture or to the ground. Many retailers sell security devices intended to secure computers to the desk. Attempt to keep valuable equipment out of view from people who may be looking through the office windows at night. File cabinets and storage bins should be closed and locked when not in use. Controlling access to the equipment will help to prevent its theft. Mark all equipment with a clearly identifiable design or name so that it can be easily identified by anyone.

Participate in an “Office Watch” program with your co-workers and other businesses surrounding you. If such a program does not exist, consider creating one. Challenge anyone walking around in your office that you do not recognize or that is not wearing an identification badge.





Conducting a security audit is a good idea. Some security firms will provide this service at little or no cost. Consider the use of a surveillance system. There are lots of choices for all skill levels and budgets.

Remember, crime can be reduced by eliminating the opportunity for its occurrence. Understanding that theft in the workplace can and does happen is paramount, and controlling access to your valuables is a great first step.

Pedestrian Accident Statistics

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Data

In 2009, 4,092 pedestrians were killed and an estimated 159,000 were injured in traffic crashes in the United States. On average, a pedestrian was killed every two hours and injured every nine minutes in traffic crashes.

The 4,092 pedestrian fatalities in 2009 were a decrease of 7 percent from 2008 and a decrease of 14 percent from 2000. In 2009, pedestrian deaths accounted for 12 percent of all traffic fatalities, and made up 3 percent of all the people injured in traffic crashes. Over 90 percent of the pedestrian fatalities occurred in single-vehicle crashes.

Almost three-fourths (72%) of pedestrian fatalities occurred in an urban setting versus a rural setting. Similarly, three-fourths (76%) of pedestrian fatalities occurred at non-intersections versus at intersections. Almost 90 percent of pedestrian fatalities occurred during normal weather conditions, compared to rain, snow and fog. A majority of the pedestrian fatalities, almost 70 percent, occurred during the nighttime. Between 2008 and 2009 all these percentages stayed relatively level.

Older pedestrians (age 65+) accounted for 19 percent (775) of all pedestrian fatalities and an estimated 8 percent (5,000) of all pedestrians injured in 2009.

In 2009, the fatality rate for older pedestrians (age 65+) was 1.96 per 100,000 population – higher than the rate for all the

other ages. In 2009, one-fifth (19%) of all children between the ages of 5 and 9 who were killed in traffic crashes were pedestrians. Children age 15 and younger accounted for 7 percent of the pedestrian fatalities in 2009 and 25 percent of all pedestrians injured in traffic crashes.

Alcohol involvement — either for the driver or for the pedestrian — was reported in 48 percent of the traffic crashes that resulted in pedestrian fatalities. Of the pedestrians involved, 35 percent had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher. Of the drivers involved in fatal crashes, only 13 percent had a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher, less than two-thirds the rate for the pedestrians. In 6 percent of the crashes, both the driver and the pedestrian had a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher.

Important Safety Reminders

- Drivers are required to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing streets in marked or unmarked crosswalks in most situations. They need to be especially careful at intersections where the failure to yield right-of-way often occurs when drivers are turning onto another street and a pedestrian is in their path.
- When possible, cross the street at a designated crosswalk. Always stop and look left, right, and left again before crossing. If a parked vehicle is blocking the view of the street, stop at the edge line of the vehicle and look around it before entering the street.
- Increase visibility at night by carrying a flashlight when walking and by wearing retro-reflective clothing that helps to highlight body movements.
- It is much safer to walk on a sidewalk, but if you must walk in the street, walk facing traffic.





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. Coale
 GP Mathis
 Beat 1 Ingels
 Beat 2 O'Toole
 Beat 3 Casalnuovo
 Beat 4 Bellamy
 Beat 5 Piombo
 Beat 6 Tirre
 Motor Huot

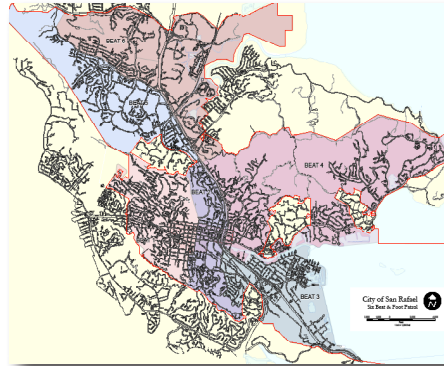
Our Officers work either 4/10 or 3/12 shifts with every 3rd Sunday as their payback. Therefore, Sundays are a mixture of both shifts.

Monday-Wednesday (Team 3)

Sgt. Spaletta
 GP* Byers
 GP* Poehlman
 Beat 1 Prince
 Beat 2 Melodia
 Beat 3 Castaneda
 Beat 4 Auld
 Beat 5 Henkle (Marine)
 Beat 6 Sweeney

Thursday-Saturday (Team 2)

Sgt. Holton
 Beat 1 Paxson
 Beat 2 Chiu
 Beat 3 MacDougald
 Beat 4/GP* Reese
 Beat 4/GP* Huber
 Beat 5 Collins
 Beat 5 E. Cogbill



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 4)

Sgt. Eberle
 GP* R. Cogbill
 GP* Hornstein
 Beat 1 Augustyn
 Beat 2 Camins
 Beat 3 Adams
 Beat 4 Holm
 Beat 5 DeMarta
 Beat 6 Patterson

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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