

San Rafael Police Department

SUMMER 2009 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
VOLUME III, ISSUE III

ARTICLES

- Telephone Emergency Notification System
- Personal Safety Tips
- SRPD at the 2009 Marin County Fair
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- Got Twitter?

On the Cover:
Corporal Augustus and Officer Tirre
working traffic enforcement on Point San
Pedro Road.

Photo by Officer Graham



"PROTECTING THE MISSION CITY"

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T.E.N.S.

TELEPHONE EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM



The Marin County Telephone Emergency Notification System (TENS) is a high speed communications system that delivers emergency information or warnings to designated geographic areas. TENS is a combination of telephone, computer, and Geographic Information System (GIS) technologies, used to communicate such information as: imminent flood-

ing, sheltering instructions, evacuation routes, missing person alerts, and more. By simply selecting an area that needs to receive emergency information, the message is prerecorded and then automatically calls the homes in the selected area - up to 22,000 per hour. It's another great way to communicate important information during an event.

TENS is managed by the Marin County Office of Emergency Services and as long as you have a land-line you are able to receive these important calls during the time of an emergency. If you have a cordless phone or your service provider is also your cable provider you should double check that they have registered you with the emergency notification database.

PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS



In this issue, we wanted to give some personal safety tips. We will start with home and out walking. In the next issue, we will give more on driving and what to do if you are attacked. (Courtesy of the National Crime Prevention Council)

Here are a few things that you can do to help reduce your risk of being attacked:

At home:

- Make sure all windows and doors in your home can be locked securely, particularly sliding glass doors. Use the locks. Keep entrances well lit.
- Install a peephole in the door – and use it.
- Check the identification of any sales or service persons before letting them in.
- Don't let any stranger into your home when you're alone – no matter what the reason or how dire the emergency is said to be. Offer to make an emergency phone call while the person waits outside.
- Never give the impression that you are home alone if strangers telephone or come to the door.
- If you live alone, use only your last name and initials on mail boxes and in phone directories.
- Get to know your neighbors – people you can turn to if you're worried.
- If you live in an apartment, avoid being in the laundry room or garage by yourself, especially at night.
- If you come home and find a door or window open or signs of a forced entry, don't go in. Go to the nearest phone, or leave the area with your cell phone and call the police.





PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS

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While walking:

- Always be alert to your surroundings and the people around you.
- Try to stay in well-lit areas.
- Walk confidently at a steady pace on the side of the street facing traffic.
- Walk close to the curb. Avoid doorways, bushes and alleys.
- Wear clothes and shoes that give you freedom of movement.
- Don't walk alone at night and always avoid areas where there are few people.
- Be careful when people stop you for directions. Always reply from a distance and never get too close to the car.
- If you are in trouble, attract helps any way you can. Scream, yell for help, or yell "Fire!"
- If you feel you're being followed, walk to a well-populated area.

MARIN COUNTY FAIR COME JOIN US

Stop by the Public Safety Fair booth and visit with San Rafael Police, Novato Police, the Marin County Sheriff's Office, Get Ready Marin and Marin Urban Search and Rescue. The Marin chapters of the Masons will be there daily from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. with their free "Child ID" finger-



printing for the kids. The fair runs July 1 -5 and is open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. everyday. The theme is Cool Green Fun. We are located near the grass mound between the food court and the Marin Veteran's Memorial Auditorium and are open every day from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Hope to see you there!



CALIFORNIA LAW ENFORCEMENT CHALLENGE SRPD WINS 3RD PLACE IN STATE



The results of the 2008 California Law Enforcement Challenge are in. The San Rafael Police Department placed third in the 51-100 sworn officer category for allied agencies. This is a big accomplishment for Corporal Mike Augustus, Officer Chuck Tirre, Officer Justin Graham, and PSS Peggy Ruge who headed up this years challenge presentation.

The California Law Enforcement Challenge (CLEC) is a competition between similar sizes and types of law enforcement agencies. It recognizes and rewards the best overall traffic safety programs in California. The areas of concentration include efforts to enforce laws and educate the public about occupant protection, impaired driving, and speeding. Agencies submit an application in a presentation binder which documents their efforts and effectiveness in these areas. The winning safety programs are those that combine officer training, public information and enforcement to reduce crashes and injuries within its jurisdiction. <http://www.chp.ca.gov/features/clec.html>





CITY OF SAN RAFAEL MOVES FORWARD WITH RED LIGHT PHOTO ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM



According to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), each year red light violations cause about 106,000 crashes a year in the U.S., resulting in nearly 1,000 deaths and 89,000 injuries. Drivers and passengers are injured in 45 percent of red-light-running collisions. More than half of the deaths in red light violation accidents are to motorists and pedestrians other than the driver of the offending vehicle. From July 1, 2007 through July 31, 2008, the City of San Rafael investigated 767 traffic collisions, of which 66 were found to have been caused by red light violations.

The goal of the automated red light enforcement program is to improve the safety of the community for vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian traffic by reducing the incidence of vehicles failing to stop for red traffic signals.

The selected enforcement intersections will be posted for red light photo enforcement as per the Vehicle Code. The Police Department will conduct a 30 day "warning period" during which violators will not be cited, but will receive warning notices (per the Vehicle Code).

The automated red light camera system uses digital media that produces still images and full motion digital video. Each monitored intersection approach requires the installation of two camera systems and high speed synchronized flash units to capture the required photographic evidence used to prosecute red light violations. The digital evidence is transported

over secure high speed data links to the vendor where vehicle registration information is accessed and assembled with the photographic evidence.

When a violation occurs, the system will produce four photographic images produced by multiple still cameras and a 12-second full motion video clip of the violation. The still camera evidence set includes an image of the driver, the license plate, as well as images of the vehicle prior to entering the intersection and as it continues through the intersection. The vendor will process the violations electronically and supply the Police Department with pre-screened violations for review and approval. A police department employee



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CITY OF SAN RAFAEL MOVES FORWARD WITH RED LIGHT PHOTO ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

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reviews the evidence and makes the determination of whether or not the violation should be forwarded for prosecution. If a prosecution decision is positive, the vendor processes and mails the citation to the registered owner of the vehicle and forwards all pertinent information to the courts.

When the violator receives the citation by mail, they are provided with a secure website address and unique PIN to access and view the violation. The website will show the violator the still images of the violation, the photograph of the driver, along with the date, time and location of the violation.

If the vehicle owner is not the violator, they are asked to supply the violator's name and address. A new notice of violation is sent to the named violator.

Contested violations are handled in Traffic Court. The vendor will provide court packets with all the information needed for a court hearing. The vendor will also train police department personnel in the system operation.

As of today, our first two approaches (systems) will be at the following locations:

Northbound Irwin Street at Third Street
Westbound Third Street at Irwin Street

We are currently in the process of obtaining the necessary permits to begin construction. Once the construction process begins, we should have the first approach up and working in approximately 2-4 weeks. Per the vehicle code, there will be a 30 day warning period for each approach that is constructed. Not until that period has concluded, will we begin issuing citations.

The San Rafael Police Department has an informational link posted on our website at www.srpd.org and there is also a designated telephone number (415-458-2395) that the public can call for additional information.

As the Red Light Photo Enforcement Program progresses, we will continue to update both our webpage and the designated telephone line.

MEET SRPD'S NEWEST MEMBER OFFICER BOWKER



Our newest Officer, Geoff Bowker graduated from the Napa Valley Criminal Justice Training Center on June 13. Officer Bowker was born in Belmont, CA and grew up in Petaluma. He graduated from Petaluma High School where he earned academic honors and played varsity football. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from Union Institute and University in February of 2009. Geoff started as a Cadet here at SRPD in 2007 and has now been promoted to Officer. Geoff will complete a 16 week Field Training Program.





DO YOU TWITTER?



In case you haven't heard, the new rave in our culture is Twitter. It is hard to turn on the news or a sporting event and not hear something about Twitter. What is Twitter? Twitter is a service for friends, family, and co-workers to communicate and stay connected through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What are you doing?

The San Rafael Police Department is using Twitter as a community outreach tool to provide information to the public. This site is not taking the place of any of our “normal” communication but gives people the option of getting some information through our Twitter site. It is free to join Twitter and we encourage you to establish your account and become a “follower” of the SRPD site. If you are interested in checking out the site, go to: www.twitter.com/sanrafaelpolice

IMPORTANT POLICE DEPARTMENT 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

HOW TO CONTACT US

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