

San Rafael Police Department

WINTER 2009 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
VOLUME III, ISSUE I



ARTICLES

- Police Department Makes Promotions
- Recognizing the Hard Work of our Support Personnel
- Avoid the Marin 13 DUI Checkpoints
- Santa-Cop Program

On the Cover:
Marine Officer Hedeem makes waves as he sets a course aboard the Police Boat "Mission City" for a water rescue south of the Richmond Bridge.
Photo by Officer Graham



"COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY"

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





POLICE DEPARTMENT MAKES PROMOTIONS

By PSS Peggy Ruge

There have been many changes going on here at SRPD. Lieutenant Dan Hulett retired in October after 30 years here. Dan started his career at Tiburon Police Department in 1977. He joined SRPD in 1978. He was promoted to Corporal in 1980, and became Sergeant in 1985. Dan was promoted to Lieutenant in 2004, and ended his career as the Dayshift Patrol Lieutenant. Dan is now enjoying spending time with his wife and 2 sons.

With Dan's retirement and 2 other upcoming retirements anticipated in the near future, the department has started planning. Effective March 1, 2009, Lieutenant Dave Starnes has been promoted to Captain. He will be the Captain overseeing Investigations and Support Services. Also, Sergeant Glenn McElderry, Sergeant Dan Fink and Sergeant Ralph Pata have all been promoted to Lieutenant. Corporal Rick Clary, Corporal Raul Aguilar and Officer Dave Cron have all been promoted to Sergeant, while Officer Todd Berringer and Officer Ronda Reese were promoted to Corporal. All of these officers bring many years and a wealth of information to these positions. We look forward to the many changes to come.

RECORDS AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL DAY

By PSS Peggy Ruge

Wednesday, November 5, marked the Annual Law Enforcement Records and Support Personnel Day. This is the day that California has set aside to acknowledge the efforts of our non sworn employees. This includes our Records Clerks, Property/Evidence technicians, Chief's Administrative Assistant, Business Office Technician, Police Service Specialists and Cadets.

Our non sworn personnel work a variety of jobs and hours within the department. The Records Clerks answer all the non emergency phones, update and input all of the records for the department. The Records Supervisor, who is also our Public Information Officer is



Margo Rohrbacher. She oversees the Records Specialists, Property Clerks and Business Office Technician. Our Records Specialists are Kelly Mael, Lori Coen, Julie Griffith, Lynne Bracken, Belen Anaya, Gina Johnson and Nellie Woodard. Our property/evidence clerks, Jorge Navarro and Charlotte Heitman oversee the property room and keep track of all property entered into evidence from crimes or safekeeping purposes. The Business office Technician, Beth Minka, runs the business office, and is responsible for all financial transactions and payroll for employees. The Chief's Administrative Assistant, Toni Archer, handles all communication for the Chief of Police. The Police Service Specialists are Lynette Keller and Peggy Ruge. Lynette handles all the training for personnel, while Peggy handles all the Community Oriented Policing and alarm permits and billing. The Cadets are supervised by our Administrative Sergeant Chris Coale. They are Stefanie Farina, Geoff Bowker, Scott Millholland and Mallory Boggs. The cadets are college students who work part time doing various duties around the department.





“AVOID THE MARIN 13” DUI CHECKPOINTS

By PSS Peggy Ruge



Beginning Friday, December 12th, all 13 Marin law enforcement agencies will participate in the AVOID the 13 program as part of California’s Holiday DUI Enforcement Campaign, encouraging the public to call 911 to report suspected drunk drivers. The annual Winter Holiday campaign runs through January 1st and the campaign schedule is as follows:

- A DUI/driver’s license checkpoint on Friday, December 12th in San Rafael on Third Street at Brooks Street from 6:00 p.m. to 2 a.m.
- Saturday, December 13th a “strike team” of roving patrols specifically on the look out for drunk and impaired drivers will operate throughout the County from 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.
- A DUI/driver’s license checkpoint on Friday, December 19th in San Rafael from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. at North San Pedro Road and Civic Center Drive.
- A DUI/driver’s license checkpoint on Friday, December 26th in Novato on Delong Avenue at Reichert Avenue from 6:00 p.m. to midnight.



2007 marks the first year since 1998 in which alcohol-related fatalities have declined in California. Fatalities dropped 6.7 percent between 2006 and 2007. “California has worked very hard over the past five years to reverse the trend in of increasing alcohol-related traffic fatalities,” said OTS Director Christopher J. Murphy. “Through an aggressive combination of sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols and greater vigilance on the part of the public by calling 911 when they see a drunk driver, we’re getting these dangerous drivers off the road.”

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"AVOID THE MARIN 13" DUI CHECKPOINTS

By PSS Peggy Ruge

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The following clues can help motorists detect a drunk driver:

- Weaving/swerving in and out of the lane
- Traveling at speeds much slower than the flow of traffic
- Braking erratically or stopping in the lane
- Sudden stops for signal lights and slow start once they change
- Remaining at the signal lights once they turn green – asleep at the wheel
- Making wide turns and/or cutting the corner, striking the curb
- Headlights off at night or on high beams
- Driving with the turn signals on
- Straddling the center line of the road or lane lines
- The Driver looks intoxicated – staring straight ahead, face close to the windshield, and appears to be quite sleepy

"How many times have you seen someone driving erratically in an unsafe manner and wished there was a cop around?" said San Rafael Police Chief Matthew Odetto. "Law enforcement can't be everywhere at once. We need the public's help to find impaired drivers and get them off the roads promptly." In 2007*, 1,491 people were killed and 30,642 injured in alcohol-related crashes in California, compared to 1,597 fatalities and 31,099 injuries in 2006. Growth of the California AVOID Program, including the California Highway Patrol and more than 450 local law enforcement agencies, has contributed to the reduction in deaths and injuries. As of 2008, 98 percent of the state's population is covered by the regional enforcement efforts.

California's effort coincides with the national "Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest." campaign taking part across the country. Grant funding for the regional AVOID Program includes officer overtime for sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols and is provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



* Statistics based on California Highway Patrol 2007 provisional data and the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

SAN RAFAEL POLICE SANTA COP

By Corporal Dan Hanlon

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

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SAN RAFAEL POLICE SANTA COP

By Corporal Dan Hanlon

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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 in 2007, they provided toys, food, and clothing for over 700 children and 220 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, 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.

The focus of the program is to collect and donate within the city of San Rafael so we can build a better community. Santa Cop will keep the magic of Christmas alive for the children as long as there is a need.

Current information can be found at www.sanrafael-santacop.org. 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 or write to us at SRSC, P.O. Box 6221, San Rafael, CA 94903-6221.





San Rafael Police Department

"COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY"

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

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

By Phone:
Phone: 415-485-3114
Fax: 415-485-3044

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



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