



*Integrity Service Excellence*

# RPD Happenings

Issue 8

July - August 2012

**Riverside Police Department**

## Message from the Chief

I am thankful to all the community members who supported the Riverside Police Department and the Police Foundation by attending the "Chief's Breakfast." I hope that we were able to provide information about the Foundation and the direction in which our Department is heading. I am grateful for the outstanding members who serve on the Foundation's board. Each of them has

shown many times their commitment to our fine city.

I would like to congratulate the Department members and retirees who participated in United States Police and Fire Games in San Diego. Police and Fire athletes from across the U.S. attended this competition. The RPD/RPOA Rifle Team competed in three



**Chief Sergio Diaz**

separate rifle events. This was the first year that the RPD was able to assemble two complete four-man teams. **Cont. pg. 2**

## RPD Welcomes New Volunteers

**BY: PPC Petite Cunningham**

Volunteers have played an important role in the RPD family for several years now. They have willingly given of their talents and time to fill in

the gaps for us so that we may continue to operate like a well-oiled machine. We are expanding the number of our volunteers so you will see some new faces around the station. Our Citizen On

Patrol group has welcomed aboard Matthew Gallardo, Shawn Kelley, John Walker, and Patricia Zagata. They will be in training over the next four to six weeks **Cont. pg. 3**

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### Tip of the Month: Be Water Safe!

- Home pool drowning is the leading cause of death for children under 5
- Have active supervision for children in and around water
- KNOW where your child is...don't assume they are with the "other" parent.

## Chief's Message Cont...

Two days of competition resulted in our teams winning 18 medals. The teams consisted of current, former, and retired RPD METRO/Sniper Team members.

**Team 1:**

Bill Edwards (Ret.)  
Aaron Perkins  
Brent Stewart  
Pat Watters (Ret.)

**Team 2:**

Erik Feimer  
Don Goodner  
Brian Smith  
Zack Watson

The RPD 4-man Toughest Competitor Alive Team (TCA) also had an outstanding showing. The team consisted of Officers Raymond Soto (retired), Silvio Macias, Henry Park, and Detective Brian Money. The TCA consist of a 5k run, shot-put, 100m dash, 100m swim, bench press, 25 foot rope climb, pull ups, and an obstacle course. RPD took top honors. Additionally, Officer Soto (ret.) competed as an individual and took a silver medal for his age category.

As I have said in the past, it is not about the medals; it is about testing you and competing. I am proud of each and every one of you that had the commitment, determination and courage to compete.

Finally, I invite all of you to the Golden Badge Awards, which will be held on Saturday, September 29, 2012 at the Riverside Municipal Auditorium. The theme of this gala celebration will be "Service to Youth". We will be recognizing three distinguished citizens who have demonstrated their commitment to our community's young people. The evening will also include dining, dancing, silent and live auctions. I hope to see you there. For more information visit [www.riversidepolicefoundation.org/events](http://www.riversidepolicefoundation.org/events).

Warmest Regards,  
Sergio

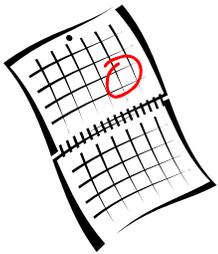
### Have a question? ASK RPD

Do you have a question you would like answered about policing? Not sure why the police do things a certain way? Ask RPD.

Send your questions to [newsletter@riversideca.gov](mailto:newsletter@riversideca.gov) and we will review, answer and print as many questions and answers as possible.



## Community Event Calendar



**August 7, 2012, National Night Out – Citywide**  
[www.rpdonline.org](http://www.rpdonline.org)

**August 8, 2012, Crime Free Night at the Inland Empire 66ers**  
**280 South E Street, San Bernardino @ 5pm**



Volunteer Mounted Unit visited the kids at Stroller Strides on June 1, 2012

## Volunteers Cont...

working closely with our designated trainers. Some of you may know Matt. He works security for the Galleria at Tyler. John has an extensive background in law enforcement. Patty's background is in management and Shawn has a genuine interest in law enforcement. All are really eager to contribute to our department in the most beneficial ways possible.

We have also brought in four new interns. Danielle Thomas will assist in the Domestic Violence unit and has also volunteered at the DA's Office in their DV division. Tanya Lopez will work with Traffic Education. She has a very outgoing personality and will be an asset while working with teenagers. Ryan Ybarra and Brittany Wilder will work with Det. Brian Money. They will assist with making sure victims of fraud have the information needed to begin to recover from such an invasive crime. Please make sure to give each of our new family members a warm RPD welcome!

## Support Services Division



**Captain  
John Wallace**

### Communication Bureau News

Police Chief Sergio Diaz and Fire Chief Steve Early are pleased to announce that Senior Management Analyst Patty Tambe has become the Interim Communications Bureau Manager. Patty brings a wealth of managerial and City experience to the position.

Sergeant Bryan Dailey is to be congratulated for his excellent job in performing the duties of Interim Communications Bureau Manager for the past two years. He will remain assigned to Support Services until shift change, assisting with the transition in the Communications Bureau.



We are looking forward to the contributions that Patty will bring to the Communications Bureau as she will undoubtedly help move the Riverside Police and Fire Departments forward to even greater levels of public service.

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## Investigations Division



**Captain  
Meredyth Meredith**

**Centralized Investigation Graffiti Unit:** Graffiti can destroy our communities, resulting in a genuine threat to quality of life, economic losses to businesses in terms of physical property, profits, goodwill and the general deterioration of property and business values for adjacent and surrounding properties. To combat graffiti, the Riverside Police Department developed the Graffiti Unit which consists of a Detective, Police Officer, and Office Specialist. The unit is responsible for conducting investigations into graffiti-related cases.

The Unit maintains and updates information on tagging crew members, monitors tagging trends, and assists the city Public Works Graffiti Eradication Detail with clean up. The Unit maintains Graffiti Surveillance Cameras throughout the city and provides presentations and training at various public forums throughout the city. The Graffiti Unit also assists with civil actions to recover costs related to the offender's actions.

The Riverside Police Department Graffiti Unit encourages the citizens of Riverside to provide tips on deterring graffiti vandalism. If you witness a person spray painting or "tagging" any public or private

**Cont. pg. 7**

## Special Operations Division

The School Resource Officer (SRO) program provides an important role to Community Oriented Policing (COP) by placing a law enforcement officer within the educational environment. The SRO develops partnerships with the Alvord and Riverside Unified School Districts in order to provide a better quality of life for students while they attend school.

The Riverside Police Department currently has eight SRO's that cover both school districts. While in school, the SRO provides a variety of functions. Besides being an active law enforcement officer for the school, the SRO is a resource for students, parents, teachers and administration regarding law enforcement issues. The SRO works towards finding a solution to problems affecting the schools and the students that attend them. The SRO will investigate crimes that occur within the school or on school property, create a positive role model for students, and develop a link between law enforcement and the school community. The SRO is also an asset to other service agencies which provide preventive and counseling services within the school district.

Through this partnership, the Riverside Police Department is dedicated to providing a safe and crime free environment for all students from both school districts in the City of Riverside.



**Captain  
John Carpenter**

## Field Operations Division

On July 20, 2012, shift change will take place. I would like to wish Lieutenants Bruce Blomdahl and Melissa Bartholomew good luck in their new assignments and welcome Lieutenants Larry Gonzalez and Chris Manning back to Field Operations. Larry will be working A Watch and Chris will be working B Watch as Watch Commanders.

After reviewing calls for service on all shifts and specific days of the week, we determined a need to adjust our patrol deployment. Beginning this shift change, two patrol squads will be working later hours in a pilot program that focuses on maximizing our resources each day of the week. This redeployment should provide better coverage during peak hours.

As outlined in the strategic plan, the department will face a number of future challenges that will require creative solutions. One of these challenges is be the increase in the homeless population in Riverside. To provide an effective, collaborative and compassionate mental health and law enforcement emergency response to those in need of mental health, housing and related social services, Field Operations has initiated a Community Outreach program. This program will partner a Riverside County Mental Health Therapist with a Community Outreach Officer on a full-time basis. Officer James Heiting has been

**Cont. pg. 7**



**Captain  
Mike Perea**

## Management Services Division



**Admin. Svs. Manager  
Karen Aquino**

Police Records Specialist III Kerri McDonald has been elected President of the False Alarm Reduction Association (FARA) at their annual symposium in Albuquerque, New Mexico on May 2, 2012. The False Alarm Reduction Association is an international association primarily of persons employed by government and public safety agencies that are in charge of, or working in, False Alarm Reduction Units.

Kerri became an active member in FARA in 2002. Since that time she has held several Board of Director positions including Secretary. She has also been involved on many committees and in 2011 chaired the Training Certification Committee.

Kerri began her career with the Riverside Police Department (RPD) in 1997 working in the Records Management Bureau processing police reports, assisting customers at the front counter and answering phones in the telephone report writing unit. In 1999, she began working in the RPD's False Alarm Unit. Since that time she has been instrumental in assisting in the development of policies and procedures and city ordinances for false alarm reduction. In addition, she was actively involved in implementing new alarm management software that tracks false alarm history, alarm permit registration and billing.



In 2011, the RPD responded to 7,651 alarm calls, of which 98% were false alarms. Dispatching Police Officers in response to false alarms is costly and inefficient and involves unnecessary risk to personnel and the general public. Kerri works with the community, alarm companies and staff to reduce these false alarm occurrences so that the RPD can make more efficient use of our limited resources. In the past years there has been a 28 % reduction of false alarms.

We are proud to have Kerri represent the Riverside Police Department as the President of FARA. Please join us in congratulating her on this major accomplishment.

## Support Services, cont...

Police Communications Systems Analyst Steve Powell, with the help and support of Detective Aaron Brandt, have completed reprogramming the HT's and radios in vehicles. The reprogramming effort was conducted to remove the loud digital buzzing noise that was being received by units on Channel 1, our main police communication channel, to add additional interoperability channels that will help us take full advantage of the IWIN system as it is brought on line, and to accommodate the FCC mandate that all radios be "narrow banded" before 2013.

## Investigations, cont...

property, please call the Riverside Police Department's dispatch center at (951) 787-7911 immediately. Provide a detailed description of the person such as type of clothing, height, weight or any other identifying marks. Do not approach the vandal; maintain a safe distance to avoid confrontation or danger. If you see graffiti on public property, please dial 3-1-1 to have the graffiti removed. Graffiti abatement personnel can be out to remove the graffiti within 24 to 48 hours. Any information on a suspected "tagger" that is given to a 3-1-1 representative is forwarded to the Riverside Police Department Graffiti Unit for investigation. If the information leads to an arrest, you may be eligible for a \$1000 reward.

Private residents can prevent graffiti by participating in Neighborhood Watch to keep communication open between neighbors. Furthermore, it is important to assure adequate lighting throughout the neighborhood. Graffiti vandalism mostly occurs late at night or early morning to avoid detection. Cover large walls with bushes or vines to deter the appeal to the graffiti vandal. By utilizing these tips you can help keep your neighborhood clean.

## Field Operations, cont...

selected as the Community Outreach Officer and he will be working with Norberto Carlos from County Mental Health. The goal of the program is to build community partnerships with a host of public and private social service organizations throughout the City and County to reduce and or prevent future calls for service and provide referrals and services as part of a long term approach to assist the homeless. We look forward to great results from this much needed collaboration.

For more information regarding Neighborhood Watch,  
please visit us online at [www.RPDonline.org](http://www.RPDonline.org)

## RPD Encourages Community Participation in National Night Out

**BY: Supervisor Karen Haverkamp**

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual **National Night Out** (NNO) crime and drug prevention event is Tuesday, August 7, 2012, and I would like to invite all Riverside neighborhoods to participate. *National Night Out* is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime efforts, strengthen neighborhood spirit, and send a strong message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. National Night Out showcases the vital importance of a police-community partnership, and we are asking for citizen involvement in our fight for a safer Riverside. Be involved and join us in giving crime a going away party.



It is expected that NNO will involve over 37 million people in 15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases around the world. NNO, is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), TARGET, as a national corporate sponsor, and co-sponsored locally by the Riverside Police Department.

From 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, August 7, 2012, residents in neighborhoods throughout Riverside are asked to spend the evening outside with your neighbors and police. While the traditional "lights on" and front porch vigils remain a part of NNO, activities have expanded to include a variety of events such as block parties, pot lucks, cookouts, flashlight walks, contests, youth activities, and visits from the police. Register your event at [www.rpdonline.org](http://www.rpdonline.org).

The Riverside Police Department is committed to making *National Night Out* a time for our community to stand together, and promote awareness, safety, and neighborhood unity. Police personnel will be out in force and will be stopping by the registered events citywide.

## Academy Class Gets New Mascot!

**BY: Celeste Barden**

San Bernardino Sheriff's Academy Class #185 requested and was granted permission to reinstate the past tradition of having an Academy Mascot at the Basic Academy. The previous mascot, Lady States, had passed away a few years prior. They donated time at the Apple Valley Animal Shelter and held fundraising events to purchase a new mascot for the Academy. They purchased a 4 month old male Golden Retriever and named him "Bono" after Fallen Riverside Police Officer Ryan Bonaminio who graduated from SBSO Academy in 2006.



## Calling all Golfers!

The Riverside Police Foundation has been chosen as a 2012 beneficiary for the Premier Service Bank Golf Tournament being held at Victoria Country Club on Monday, October 1, 2012.

Visit [www.premierservicebank.com/golf](http://www.premierservicebank.com/golf) for more information.

**2012 BENEFICIARIES:**

**CJ's Gift Giving**  
CJ's Gift Giving supplies families dealing with cancer the things they need - from gifts to cheer up a sick child, to a summer picnic for the whole family to enjoy!

**Riverside Police Foundation**  
is committed to enhancing the health, safety, and education of the children in Riverside.

**The Carolyn E. Wylie Center**  
for Children, Youth & Families  
The Wylie Center for Children, Youth & Families is known for its expertise in the area of service to children with special needs in the Inland Empire.

**RAFFLE/AUCTION ITEMS**

**Jaguar for a Weekend**  
Donated by:  
Alvarez Lincoln Mercury

**Buckle Bear Party**  
Donated by:  
Riverside Police Dept. and  
Riverside Police Foundation

**RPD Ride Along**  
Donated by:  
Riverside Police Dept. and  
Riverside Police Foundation

**RPD Shooting Simulator**  
Donated by:  
Riverside Police Dept. and  
Riverside Police Foundation

**RPD Helicopter Ride-along**  
Donated by:  
Riverside Police Dept. and  
Riverside Police Foundation

**SPONSORS TO DATE:**

### Giving Back

Since 2006, through your help and kindness we have raised nearly **a quarter of a million dollars** to help twenty six not-for-profit agencies.

Make checks payable to:  
**CJ's Gift Giving/ Premier Service Bank Charitable Golf Outing**  
501 (c) 3 Tax ID # 20-8673124

### Contacts

For sponsorship opportunities or if you need additional information, please contact one of the following:

**Kerry L. Pendergast** (Event Chair)  
President/Chief Executive Officer

**Shelly Seebold** (Event Co-Chair)  
Assistant Vice President/Executive Assistant

(951) 274-2400

For more information please go to: [www.premierservicebank.com/golf](http://www.premierservicebank.com/golf)

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## RPD In The Community

### Bees at RPD

**BY: Lt. Jaybee Brennan**

In the early morning hours of June 9, 2012, patrol vehicle #3757 had unexpected visitors.

A swarm of bees decided that the front bumper of the vehicle was the best place to set up a new hive.

Vector Control was contacted to assist in the removal of the bee hive.



Students learn bicycle and pedestrian safety from PSR DeFries at a presentation at Alcott Elementary School on May 30, 2012.

## RPD In The Community



Teen 2 Teen Senior Banquet at March Air Base Museum on May 30, 2012.



Officer Galbreath interacts with kids on June 8, 2012, as part of the Riverside Police Activities League. RPAL is supported by the Riverside Police Foundation.

Being proactive for our community!

## Riverside Police Department

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# SAVE THE DATE

## 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Safety Fair

**OCTOBER 6, 2012**

**10am-1pm**

**COME & CELEBRATE OUR  
15<sup>TH</sup> YEAR**

**As we honor Police and Fire**

**ALSO...COME AND SEE**

**Helicopter display, Fire Safety House, K-9 Unit  
display and much more!**

