



# Community Connection

A Publication of the Sacramento Police Department

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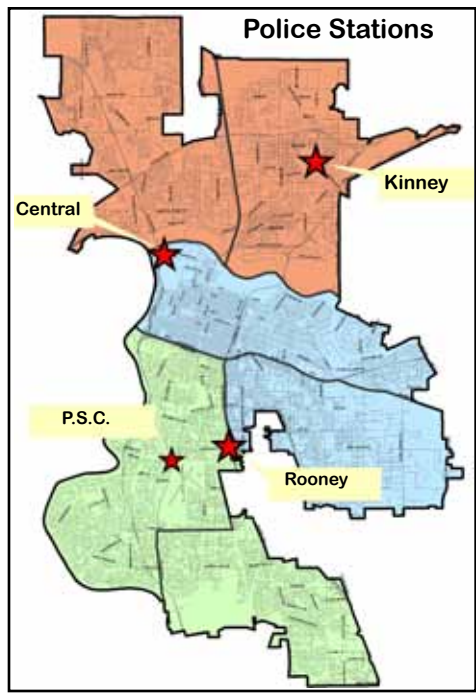
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## Department Update



Chief Rick Brazier

This year has gone by so fast, it's hard to believe we are already at the first anniversary of this newsletter. I hope you have found *Community Connection* interesting and informative as the Po-

lice Department continues to strive for more open communication and accessibility. The following are some highlights from 2009.

In spite of continuing difficult economic conditions, crime in Sacramento has steadily declined in almost all areas. Here are a few statistics for this year as of the end of October in comparison to rates from the same time in 2008:

- Murder - down 47.6%
- Robbery - down 11%
- Simple Assault - down 7.2%
- Aggravated Assault - down 14.2%
- Burglary - down 2.7%
- Larceny - down 7.6%
- Motor Vehicle Theft - down 17.5%
- Rape - up 17.4% (This rate has increased compared to 2008, however, the majority of sexual assaults were not random, but suspects known to victims.)

Although most crime rates are down, there are crimes the Department would like to affect more such as residential burglaries. These are frustrating and concerning to the community and Police Department.

To do this, we also need your help by securing your homes, looking out for each other, and calling the police if you see anything suspicious.

Like many City departments, the Police Department is needing to do

more with less in terms of staffing. Hiring has been at a standstill this year, with the exception of a few grant-funded replacements for retired or resigned staff, and there has been no budget for overtime to make up for these losses. As of the end of October, the Police Department was down 98 sworn staff and 114 civilian staff.

The Police Department remains determined to provide the service our community needs and deserves. This year, I am proud to say that Sacramento's police union voted on concessions which prevented further staffing losses.

Another part of our efforts was aggressively seeking grants to make up for budget shortfalls. Here is the good news on grants applied for and awarded to our Department:

- Federal Recovery Act Funding to Support Law Enforcement - **\$9,554,860** to hire 35 new officers.
- Office of Traffic Safety anti-DUI funding - **\$670,500** for DUI checkpoints, warrant sweeps, patrols, and sting operations.
- Federal Secure Our School funding - **\$463,699** to increase funding at schools in the Sacramento City Unified and Robla School Districts.
- Justice Assistance Grants - **\$3,142,581** over several years to upgrade police network infrastructure, shooting range bullet traps, tasers, and police vehicle mobile computer replacement.

The Police Department will continue to seek grants and other creative ways to ensure service levels and keep our crime stats in a downward trend.

As we close this year and look forward to 2010, I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season and New Year!

## News from the Area Captains



*Kinney Station  
North Area  
Capt. Daniel Hahn*

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Welcome to this edition of the Community Connection on behalf of your North Area police station.

Reducing crime and making our neighborhoods safer takes teamwork and relentless effort on behalf of police and the community. That is what took place in October and November in the North Area. During a four-week period, the North Command implemented a special team to combat burglaries and robberies. This operation was a tremendous success due to neighbors calling in suspicious activity and the work of selected officers.

The team consisted of two POP officers and four patrol officers. The anti-burglary/robbery task force resulted in 88 total arrests, 43 fresh felony arrests, 32 probation searches, 11 parole searches, 3 guns recovered and 40 theft-related arrests. The most significant result of the operation was burglaries went down in several of our neighborhoods.

The Northgate/Gardenland neighborhood was one of the focus areas due to over 100 percent increases in burglaries for four months in a row. As a direct result of the anti-burglary/robbery detail, the burglaries went down 26 percent in this same neighborhood in October. In the Hagginwood neighborhood, burglaries went down 33 percent in October as opposed to the 35 percent increase in September.

Many suspects were arrested during this operation because neighbors called in suspicious activity in a timely manner - which is imperative to catching suspects victimizing neighborhoods.

Cooperation like this reduces crime in all of our neighborhoods. The key is all of us working together. Have a great holiday season and call in ALL suspicious activity ALL the time!



*Central Station  
Central Area  
Capt. Dana Matthes*

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What would you do in this situation? You're sitting outdoors at a local coffee shop when a guy walks up to a bicycle secured by a lock and chain to a pole.

He proceeds to use bolt cutters to cut the lock off. The subject then leaves the lock and chain, and rides off. What would it take for you to inquire if it were his bicycle or bring it to someone's attention?

Close to four years ago, two brothers recorded a video on how easy it was to steal bicycles in New York City. They taped a number of scenarios in which a subject stole bicycles while citizens watched and even at one point assisted. The link to the video is listed below.

So, what is the threshold for our community? What if it were a subject looking into a car, looking over a neighbor's fence, or knocking on each of your neighbors doors without any obvious reason (not a sales person or SMUD, for example). Would you call? Call the police and give the officers a chance to investigate!

**Crime Alerts:** We've had a significant increase in auto burglaries in Midtown in the area of 17th Street and J Street in the late evening hours (11:00 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.).

Avondale and Colonial Village had a significant increase in residential burglaries during the day on weekdays. We believe juveniles and/or truants may be involved in a number of these crimes.

Google: "Bike Thief Neistat Brothers" or go to the following link  
You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ooa3NVfFIEU>



*Rooney Station  
South Area  
Capt. Dan Schiele*

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During the holidays, I hope every one of you is able to spend some extra quality time with your family and friends. The holidays are to be shared, with treasured memories created. Please don't let your festive spirits be dampened by unknowingly contributing to becoming a victim of crime. Crime can happen anywhere, anytime, sometimes without any reason. Take steps to reduce the likelihood of becoming a crime victim.

The most likely crime to experience in Sacramento is theft, which is usually a crime of opportunity, occurring when someone lacking character and ethics takes that *opportunity* to steal your item of value. So, to help reduce your chances of being a victim of theft, remember these tips:

Never leave unattended valuables visible in your car, not even for a minute. I can't tell you the number of times I've heard, "I only left for a second!" Lock your valuables in the trunk of your unattended vehicle. At night secure your vehicle in a garage if possible. Always lock up your home when leaving and don't hide house keys anywhere.

Make your house a "hard target" where it seems difficult for a burglar to break in. If a burglar perceives it as difficult to enter, chances are he/she will try somewhere else. Make it noisy for them to get into your residence.

Dogs and alarms are good deterrents - burglars will generally avoid a house with a dog and alarms. But they aren't foolproof! Lock your gates to prevent criminals from entering your yard to steal power tools or other items. Join your local Neighborhood Watch - the best defense in preventing crime. Please refer to our website at [www.sacpd.org](http://www.sacpd.org) for more tips and current crime trends in your neighborhood!

### HOLIDAY SAFETY & HEALTH

The holiday season is now upon us, but before we get all wrapped up in the hustle and bustle of things, let's take a minute to be safe so we can avoid those crimes of opportunity.

In addition to the usual common sense tips that are important year-round, but are especially important in the coming weeks, we also offer a few tips on how to party smart to avoid that nasty little flu bug that's trying to make its way around. Be safe and happy holidays!

#### WHILE SHOPPING

- Be aware of your surroundings and pay attention to the people around you.
- Stay alert when returning to your car and keep your keys ready in your hand.
- Don't overload yourself with packages to ensure freedom of movement and clear visibility.
- Shop with a friend.
- Carry very little cash and take only the credit cards you will use. If you must carry a purse or wallet in hand, keep it tucked close to your body.
- Ask for a security escort to your car if you are shopping alone.

#### OUT AND ABOUT

- Park near the store and in well-lit and well-traveled areas.
- Lock your car and close your windows every time you leave your vehicle, even if it is only for a few minutes.
- Children should never go to a parking lot or your car alone.
- If you need to use an ATM, do so in a store or mall, and avoid ATMs located outside after dark.
- Never leave valuables or packages in plain sight in your vehicle - lock them in the trunk.

#### AT HOME

- Remember to always secure your home when you leave.
- If you will be traveling this season, make your home look lived-in by using automatic timers for your lights. Have a trusted neighbor keep an eye on your house, and collect your mail and news-

papers so they don't accumulate.

- Don't place packages in your home where they can be seen from the door or a window.
- Beware of any strangers that come to your door. Ask for identification to verify they are who they say they are representing (courier, charitable organization, etc.).
- Don't advertise your new gifts. Crush all containers and boxes before throwing them away. Uncrushed boxes in the trash may tell burglars that you have a new TV, stereo, camera, etc.

#### PARTY SAFE

- Limit your consumption of alcohol. Space your drinks at least an hour apart and have something to eat while you are drinking.
- Try alternating alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks throughout the party to cut down on the amount you drink.
- Drink only if you want to - don't be pressured into accepting a drink.
- And if you drink, don't drive. Decide who will be your designated driver before the party starts or take a taxi.

#### BE A FLU-SAFE PARTY HOST

- If you are feeling under the weather, do not host (or attend) a party.
- For food, think individual portions rather than large communal bowls of chips, dips (we know the double dips are out there!), and nuts so individual hands don't reach into the bowl.
- For drinks, help your guests hang onto their glasses by offering wine charms, or a marker or stickers for disposable cups. Try colored rubber bands to go around beer bottles.
- In the bathroom, avoid the sharing of a cloth towel by putting out a basket of disposable hand towels with a covered garbage can.
- Make tissue boxes and hand sanitizers part of your home party décor so they are easily accessible.
- You may want to skip the mistletoe this year and just be prudent about all contact.

### Grant Funds for Range

*Corporal Robert G. Mueller*

*In-Service Training/Range Master*

Two new bullet traps were built for and are located on the Police Department's two new outdoor ranges. One trap is 45' wide and able to handle up to 10 shooters at one time. The second trap is 125' wide and able to handle up to 25 shooters at once. Both of the traps were purchased with Justice Assistance Grant funds.

The environmentally friendly traps are made of recycled rubber. They are rated for every type of pistol and rifle caliber up to .50 BMG caliber. These traps are expected to increase the Department's range capabilities, and offer more efficiency and flexibility in the firearms training program. The most evident benefit will be the ability to hold the patrol rifle course completely in-house, without relying on utilizing facilities belonging to other agencies. In the past, the Department had no such range facilities and had to borrow or rent facilities at the CHP Academy.



The Police Academy has already begun to realize the benefits from the bullet trap. Before the Academy moved the entire firearms training program to the McClellan site, they had been restricted to just one range, limiting the type of training they were able to provide and making it difficult to facilitate the Academy cadets getting through their firearms training in a timely manner.

With the new ranges and bullet traps, the Academy can run pistol and shotgun training concurrently, giving the Academy cadets a more efficient and diverse training experience.

# North Command's 2nd Annual Cops & Community Celebration

On September 26, 2009, North Area neighbors came together to celebrate together with the cops. This 2nd annual event was organized to bring neighbors together with the police officers that patrol their neighborhoods. By neighbors knowing each other and the officers that serve them - their neighborhoods can become safer.

The event had something fun for the whole family, including: Nascar race car, EOD robot, K9, Sac PD's Mobile Incident Command vehicle, jump houses, balloons,

face painting, booths that included home security companies, community based organizations, and college information, to name a few. No event would be complete without free food that included the famous BBQ by Officer John Banks, and snow cones donated by the Boy Scouts.

Everyone had a great time and we would especially like to thank one of our very own community businesses - Balloons by Carolyn - who donated the balloons and face painting. Councilmember Sandy Sheedy was one of our main

sponsors along with our North Natomas Target store. SacPD's **Toni Delgado** even donated the time of her Aztec Dance Group to perform at the event.

A special thanks to the people of the Kinney Station who made this event possible and to the community who joined us for a great time! We would also be remiss to not mention the "muscle" behind the event - Officer **Fil Graham** who brought his Grant High School Criminal Justice students to set up and break down the event. Truly a community event!



## City of Sacramento

### CITY MANAGER

Ray Kerridge, City Manager

John Dangberg, Asst. City Manager

Cassandra Jennings, Asst. City Manager

Gus Vina, Asst. City Manager



[www.cityofsacramento.org](http://www.cityofsacramento.org)

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