



*Integrity Service Excellence*

# RPD Happenings

Issue 5

November—December 2011

**Riverside Police Department**

## Message from the Chief

As we approach the end of the year, there is much that we as a Department have accomplished. I am proud and pleased with our progress. I would like to take this opportunity to reveal the bases of our Strategic Plan. I believe it is extremely important that we lay a foundation that outlines what we believe, what we do and who we are. I hope that as you read this the answers to those questions are readily apparent.

### Mission

#### ***We are Leaders***

We dedicate ourselves to excellence as a law enforcement agency. We are committed to developing innovative solutions to the challenges we face and to becoming leader in the police profession. We recognize our fellow employees and community as our most treasured assets.



**Chief Sergio Diaz**

#### ***We are the Community***

We devote ourselves to being part of the community we serve through **Cont. PG 2**

## Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

Shopping during the holiday season can present unique danger. Taking a few prevention measures can help keep your holiday season joyous.

Be AWARE of your surroundings. Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.

Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting **Cont. PG 3**

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### **Tip of the Month:**

- Be AWARE of your surroundings
- Park in well lit areas
- Don't leave visible packages in your car
- Don't advertise you are away from home
- Have a Happy Holiday!!!

## Strategic Plan Cont...

improved communication, greater partnerships and a shared commitment to neighborhood safety. We embrace the principles of community policing, as we seek the participation of law-abiding citizens to reduce crime, the fear of crime, and the perception of crime.

### ***We are a Force for Good***

We commit ourselves to securing and maintaining public safety through the dedicated efforts of police officers and civilian employees who are trained and equipped to fight crime foster public confidence in a respectful, efficient and ethical manner. We respect the Constitutional rights of all people to liberty, equality and justice.

### **Vision**

The Riverside Police Department will be the finest law enforcement agency based upon a foundation of integrity, service, and excellence.

We will serve as an example for others, in word and deed, setting the standard for American policing.

We will partner with the community, to help solve the problems of crime, social disorder, and neighborhood livability.

### **Values**

#### ***Integrity***

We do what is right even when no one is looking. It is the moral compass that guides us to make the proper choice. Integrity is imbedded within other characteristics that are inseparable from its meaning:

*Accountability      Courage      Honesty      Humility      Respect*

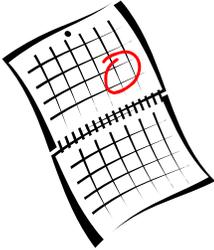
#### ***Service***

We make personal sacrifices in order to assist those in need. We promote the idea that professional duties and responsibilities take precedence over personal desires. We practice such service in the community, as well as in the Department, placing the welfare of others over self.

#### ***Excellence***

We do the best possible job at all times. We possess a passion for continuous improvement and innovation, creating the necessary momentum to propel the Department to long-term accomplishments and high performance. We achieve excellence when the members of the Department work together to successfully reach a common goal in an atmosphere free of fear that inspires individual growth and preserves self-worth.

## Community Event Calendar



**October 28-29, 2011— Ghost Walk Riverside**

<http://crballet.com/site/2011/05/ghost-walk/>

5:30 pm— 11 pm      Downtown Riverside

**October 28, 2011—Trunk n' Treat at the Grove**

5:00-8 pm      Grove Community Church

**October 29, 2011—Pink on Parade Breast Cancer Walk**

<http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/RPDSupportsPinkTeam/pinkonparade/team>

8:00 am      Fairmount Park

**November 3, 2011—Tip a Cop**

5-9 pm      Applebee's Restaurant Riverside

## Have a question? Ever wonder why officers do something a certain way? ASK RPD?



**QUESTION:** *How can I volunteer for the Police Department?*

**ANSWER:** RPD is accepting applications for Volunteers in several divisions within the department. For more information <http://www.riversideca.gov/rpd/volunteer/volpositionst.asp> or apply directly at <http://www.riversideca.gov/rpd/volunteer/volpositionst.asp> for Municipal Volunteer Program. For additional information contact Volunteer Coordinator PSR Cunningham at 951-826-5235.

Please submit your questions to [newsletter@riversideca.gov](mailto:newsletter@riversideca.gov)

## Holiday Shopping Safety Tips Cont...

you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

- ◆ Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
- ◆ Secure your home before you leave. Close curtains and blinds. Showing off your holiday decorations also shows the gifts under the tree.
- ◆ Be careful when someone you do not know comes to your door during the holiday season. Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts.
- ◆ Keep your car in good repair. Breaking down makes you a target for criminals *any* time of year.

## Field Operations Division

### FIELD OPERATIONS



**Captain  
John Wallace**

As the holidays are fast approaching, it is important that Police Department personnel focus on crimes that affect businesses and residences throughout the City of Riverside. Holiday crime cost businesses and homeowners millions of dollars each year. This not only impacts revenue, but it also impacts quality of life within the City of Riverside. Increases in burglary and other theft related crimes in neighborhoods during the holiday season are often crimes of opportunity.

Field officers will interface with business owners and city residents during the holiday season to educate them to protect their homes and businesses from crime. To maintain a safe and secure holiday season, it is important that holiday shoppers and holiday revelers are aware of their environment and report unusual occurrences.

A partnership approach with businesses, citizens, the police department using directed enforcement, and public awareness training is be the best approach to avoid victimization during the holiday season. Being safe is everyone's responsibility!! Stay safe this holiday season.



**Captain  
Meredyth Meredith**

## Investigations Division

### Welcome "K9 RAD"

The Narcotics Unit is pleased to announce the addition of its newest member. During the month of September, narcotics detection canine "RAD" joined the department. "RAD" is an 18 month old Belgian Malinois and was purchased with funds that were graciously donated by Marie Fritts from Fritts Ford.



Detective Lackey is "RAD's" handler and has recently completed a five week training program in which "RAD" was certified to detect the odors of marijuana, methamphetamine, heroin, and ecstasy. "RAD" completed the course with a 100% pass rate on all odors.

Detective Lackey has been with the department since 1998 and has been assigned to the Narcotics Unit for the last six years. "RAD" will be a valuable asset to the department. Since the completion of training, "RAD" has successfully completed two residential searches finding hidden narcotics. Please join us in welcoming "RAD" to the department.

## Special Operations Division

### University Neighborhood Enhancement Team Update

The University Neighborhood Enhancement Team welcomes Riverside Police Sergeant Brian Dodson to the UNET. Sergeant Dodson is an 18 year veteran of the Riverside Police Department and has previously worked numerous assignments to include Patrol Division, Narcotics, Problem Oriented Policing and Crime Free Multi-Housing.

The University Neighborhood Enhancement Team (U.N.E.T.) has been a successful cooperative venture between the City of Riverside and the University of California, Riverside since 1993. The collaboration between the City of Riverside and the University of California, Riverside provides community policing to guide in the identification and resolution of neighborhood problems, which foster criminal activity. **Cont. PG 8**



**Captain  
John Carpenter**

## Support Services Division

Over the past few months, you may have heard about and/or perhaps been involved in discussions about adopting a new Riverside Police Department Policy Manual. As we move toward the adoption of a new policy manual, there will be some questions and the usual apprehension that comes with change in any organization. Hopefully this article will help to ease any apprehension or concerns that may exist among our many stakeholders.

As Riverside Police Officers, we understand and accept that we are each accountable for adhering to the many policies outlined in the manual. Our goal is to adopt a set of new policies that are written more concisely and with greater clarity than our current manual. To that end, the Chief of Police, Sergio G. Diaz, has agreed to utilize LEXIPOL LLC as the vendor that will assist us in converting to our new policy manual.

As we move toward adopting the LEXIPOL policy, it's important to understand what LEXIPOL is. LEXIPOL benefits us at both the organizational and individual level. LEXIPOL is a company based in Orange County, CA, that has developed a system which allows participating agencies to create a customized policy manual to fit their needs. The LEXIPOL policy manual is built upon a foundation of law enforcement best practices and current case law, while **Cont. PG 8**



**Captain  
Mike Perea**

## Management Services Division

In these challenging fiscal times, grants are an important source of funds that provide a great benefit to the Riverside Police Department. Grants are donations of money given to non-profits or government agencies in order to meet specific goals or criteria. Grants take time to apply for, often 3-12 months between the application process and award notification. In addition, State and Federal grants have specific reporting and compliance requirements that must be adhered to in order to receive funding.



**Admin. Svs. Manager  
Karen Aquino**

The Grant Unit in RPD is responsible for grant research and development, financial report documentation, grant monitoring including expenditures and revenues, and department compliance in the use of grant funds. The Grant Unit is also the principal liaison for grant monitoring and financial audits and inspections. In the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the Riverside Police Department received 20 grants totaling almost **7.2 million dollars**. These grants have allowed the department to purchase equipment, hire personnel, and conduct enforcement operations. One of the largest grants the department has received is the **\$5.1 million** grant from the Department of Justice, COPS office, COPS Hiring grant. This grant will allow the department to hire 15 officer positions and pay their salary and benefits for three years.

The department continues to identify new funding opportunities and has submitted applications in the areas of technology, traffic safety, Homeland Security and Community Policing. Obtaining grant funding has become increasingly more difficult and competitive as more agencies seek resources in declining budgets. Grant funding continues to be an important component for the Police Department in order to conduct special programs/ enforcement operations and purchase equipment that is not available through the General Fund.



Ninhydrin Chamber – Equipment used to chemically process materials for fingerprints. This \$15,000 piece of equipment replaced a 20 year old chamber and has expedited the time needed to process fingerprints. →

Protective Ensemble – Equipment used to provide protection against the threat of an explosive blast. This piece of equipment purchased through UASI grant funds costs approximately \$22,000. ←



## Have a Safe and Sober Holiday Season

**BY: Lieutenant Eric Charrette**

As we enter the holiday season, we are reminded that too often, holiday cheer is celebrated to the extreme and many fall victim to tragic events. In most cases, these incidents of tragedy can easily be avoided. As in years past, the Traffic Bureau plans on strategizing with other local law enforcement agencies and the California Officer of Traffic Safety to educate the public and aggressively target impaired driving.

Although many know the consequences, most fail to take basic steps prior to consuming alcohol and putting themselves behind the wheel.

- ◆ Plan ahead to designate a sober driver if you know you're going to consume alcohol.
- ◆ Pay attention to friends and family at social gatherings and don't be afraid to confront someone you think has had too much to drink and is going to drive.
- ◆ Welcome someone's concern about your level of intoxication and don't dismiss their offer of a ride or alternative means of transportation.
- ◆ Take a cab. The expense you incur pales in comparison to the consequences of a DUI arrest or causing injury or death to yourself or the innocent others on the road.
- ◆ Report DUI drivers. If you feel someone on the road is DUI, dial 911. Don't assume someone else will and don't be afraid to get involved.

As basic and repetitive as it seems, we continue to hear the stories of those who are unable to turn the calendar and start a new year. Do your part to take action and help our community during this festive time of year.

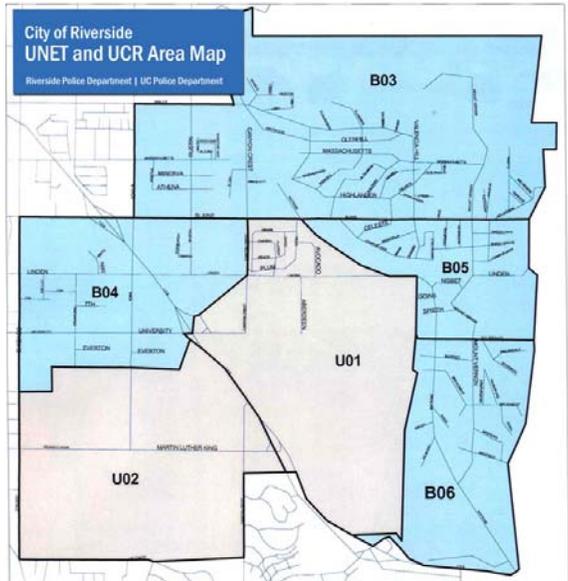
**HE SEES YOU WHEN YOU'RE DRINKING  
HE KNOWS WHEN YOU'RE .08**

**DESIGNATE BEFORE  
YOU DRINK**



## Special Operations Cont...

The goal of the team is to reduce crime, develop and maintain a community partnership with the residents and businesses and improve the quality of life within the U.N.E.T. program area. The team services approximately a 17 square mile area surrounding the University. The Riverside Police Department and the UCR Police Department each provides one sergeant and four officers, operating day and evening shifts, seven days a week handling all law enforcement duties within the identified program area. The U.N.E.T. team devotes resources, time and energy to making the University Neighborhoods safe while concentrating on the concerns of residents and the business communities.



Sergeant Brian Dodson is excited about his new assignment and said he looks forward to the new opportunities and challenges. He invites citizens and students to visit the U.N.E.T. station which is located within the University Village at 1201 University Ave. suite 112, in Riverside.

## Support Services Cont...

adhering to the company's principle that "Predictable is Preventable". The transition to LEXIPOL will have immediate recognizable benefits to our employees and the organization as a whole.

At the organizational level, the adoption of the customized LEXIPOL policy manual will ensure that the Riverside Police Department will have a comprehensive policy that is up to date, in compliance with federal and state laws, and one that conforms to the standards of our department and the requirements of our city government. Furthermore, LEXIPOL is a thoroughly tested policy system that is automatically updated as changes to state and federal laws occur, and when case law requires some revisions or edits to existing policy. Notwithstanding the advantages to the department, individual employees will appreciate LEXIPOL for its user-friendly format, ease of reading, and the condensed content.

As we transition to the new policy, we in the Support Services Division are committed to the timely completion of this project and are always available to address any issues or concerns that may arise during this transition. It should be emphasized that any and all policy changes implemented by the department will pass through a complete review process that includes the Command Staff, City Legal, Human Resources, Riverside Police Administrators Association and the Riverside Police Officers Association.

# RPD in the Community



**Marie Fritts honored at Good Morning Riverside for her generous donation of new K9 to RPD - September 8, 2011**

**Officer Suarez Serving customers at the Chili's Tip a Cop - September 20, 2011**



**RPD staff compete in Chili Cook-off as a United Way fundraiser - October 19, 2011**



**Chief Diaz receives award at City Council for California Law Enforcement Challenge - October 25, 2011**



The California Law Enforcement Challenge 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 documenting their efforts and effectiveness in these areas. The winning agencies are those that combine officer training, public information and enforcement to reduce crashes and injuries within its jurisdiction.

Being proactive for our community!

## Riverside Police Department

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## Holiday Safety Tips for Business Owners

**BY: Lieutenant Jaybee Brennan**

Every year the City of Riverside plans several events during the holiday season. Beginning with the After Thanksgiving Sales and the Festival of Lights, field officers and other department staff are assigned to large crowd locations such as downtown Riverside and the Galleria at Tyler Mall to ensure the safety and security of citizens and business owners and to create a high visibility presence to discourage opportunistic criminals. Business owners can protect their assets by following these safety tips:

- \*Lock unused doors in the business
- \*Install theft devices on inventory
- \*Eliminate blind spots that may hide a robbery in progress; use mirrors
- \*Keep only small amounts of cash in registers & keep registers in plain view
- \*Vary the schedule and route of your bank drops
- \*Install a door chime on all entrances so you know when someone enters your business
- \*Do not have employees work alone during busy times or night times
- \*Keep your business well-lit and use vandal-proof fixtures