



*Integrity Service Excellence*

# RPD Happenings

Issue 7

May - June 2012

**Riverside Police Department**

## Message from the Chief

The 28th Annual Baker to Vegas Challenge Cup Relay was held on April 21 and 22, 2012. This 120-mile relay race spans from Baker, California to Las Vegas, Nevada. Thousands of runners represented 268 teams from law enforcement and military agencies from throughout the U.S. and several foreign countries.

This year I had the privilege of

watching our Riverside Police Department Baker to Vegas team compete. They performed amazingly, completing the race in 14 hours 49 minutes and 52 seconds. This is 40 minutes better than last year's performance. Of 268 teams, the RPD runners finished fourth in our division, and 10<sup>th</sup> overall.



**Chief Sergio Diaz**

I was also pleased to see the fellowship and support offered to the team. The runners displayed camaraderie with **Cont. pg. 2**

## Students Learn the Dangers of Distracted Driving

On Tuesday, April 24, 2012, "Thumbs Down" was the phrase of choice as the Riverside Police Department *Teen 2 Teen* students advocated against distracted driving at North High School.

The Riverside Police Department partners with John W. North High School's Law and Protective Services Academy for this youth based program. The seniors participating in *Teen 2 Teen*

are given public speaking training and equipped with the tools needed to advise their peers about traffic safety issues. This time they educated their peers about the **Cont. pg. 3**

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### Tip of the Month: Be Aware

- May is Bicycle Safety Month!
- Wear a helmet every time you ride a bike, skateboard, or scooter
- Watch for traffic



## Chief's Message Cont...

teammates and the volunteers were on hand to assist with any issue that arose. It was wonderful to see the friendship and cooperation toward a common goal.

I commend the team's leadership; Aurelio Melendrez, Matt Cash and Erich Feimer for their commitment and dedication. I would also like to recognize the volunteers whose vital role is often overlooked. Finally, I would like to thank the sponsors without whose support our team would not be able to compete.

Please join me in congratulating the RPD Baker-to-Vegas team on their performance.

### Runners:

Cadet T. Khan	Cadet B. Reimer	Officer K. Kauk	Officer R. Serrato
Officer A. Barnhill	Officer G. Cleary	Officer E. Garcia	Officer S. Casteel
Officer Ed. Garcia	Officer T. Paes	Officer E. Feimer	Officer C. Jones
Officer R. Monreal	Officer B. Stennett	Officer C. Ouk	Officer C. Payne
Officer J. Payne	Officer V. De La Torre	Officer J. Elliott	Det. J. Czobakowski
Det. M. Cash	Det. M. Lewis	Det. A. Melendrez	Det. A. Tillett
Sgt. F. Assumma	Sgt. C. Milby	Sgt. J. Hutzler	Lt. V. Hardin

### Volunteers:

Mike Perea	Mary Perea	Jay Wood	Lori Wood
Lori Mackey	Ryan Mchugh	Steve Mchugh	Brenda Gonzalez
Julia Vazquez	Robert Casteel	Jana Cook	Traci Dose
Courtney Dose	Rick Hougland	Roberta Hopewell	Dan Russell
Kathleen Russell	Jim Lopez	Lyza Hatzidakis	Greg Matthews
Cathy Nelson	Millie Burns	Becky De La Rosa	John De La Rosa
Josh Ontko	Stacey Ontko		

### Major Sponsors:

Riverside County Supervisor John Tavaglione  
 Riverside Police Administrators Association  
 Riverside Police Officers' Association  
 Riverside County Supervisor John Tavaglione  
 The Running Center



## Community Event Calendar

**May 1, 2012, Free Car Seat Clinic –**

Sam’s Club- 6363 Valley Springs Parkway, Riverside 9-1pm

**May 5, 2012, Cinco de Mayo - Parade & Fiesta 9am-9pm**

Villegas Park and Community Center

**May 9, 2012, City of Riverside Wellness Fair –**

City Hall Breezeway 9-1pm

**May 13, 2012, Happy Mother’s Day**

**May 17, 2012, Chief’s Breakfast –**

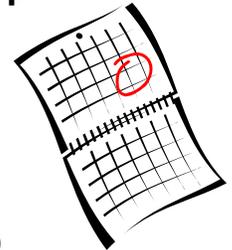
Mission Inn 6:45-8:30 am (Reservations Required)

**May 21, 2012, Police Officer Memorial Ceremony 5 pm**

11th Street at Orange Street

**May 26, 2012, 2012 Chili Cook Off & Car Show 10am-5pm**

On Magnolia Avenue from Van Buren to Jackson



## Distracted Driving Cont...

dangers of distracted driving. During lunch, the Teen 2 Teen students had their peers pledge not to drive distracted or to distract someone who is driving. The students pledged by placing their thumb print and name on a banner. Each student that pledged received a “Texting kills” thumb band.



In October 2011, the Riverside Police Department received a grant from Allstate to educate teens about the dangers of distracted driving. We hope that through



peer-to-peer education students will learn a valuable lesson and think twice before placing their “thumbs” on their

cell phones and driving distracted.



## Support Services Division

### ***Personnel Bureau:***



**Captain  
John Wallace**

On April 19, 2012, several members of the Riverside Police Department were honored at the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner and Awards Ceremony at the Riverside Convention Center. Established in 1978, LEAC (Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee) is a joint organization made up of representatives from local Western Riverside County Law Enforcement Agencies and community members. For the past several years, RPD's Personnel Bureau has been active on the board. Members with LEAC meet monthly to coordinate the ensuing year's ceremonial event. Officer Jolynn Turner completed her third year and Sergeant Mark Rossi his second year as members of the board and were responsible for designing the LEAC coin that was made available for purchase to help fund future awards ceremonies.

Every year, LEAC, through department nominations, honors sworn and civilian personnel and community members for heroism, lifetime service, community service and investigative excellence. This year, for the Riverside Police Department, Sexual Assault & Child Abuse Detective Roberta Hopewell was honored for Investigative Excellence, Officer Zachariah Fishell for Valor, and retired pilot Officer James Vanderhoof and retired K9 handler Ray Soto for Lifetime Achievements. Congratulations to all!

## Investigations Division

### ***Special Investigations Vice Unit:***



**Captain  
Meredyth Meredith**

The Special Investigations Vice Unit has taken a leadership role in the development and on-going activity of the Inland Empire Child Exploitation and Prostitution Task Force (ICEP). The ICEP Task Force consists of investigators from the Riverside Police Department, Ontario Police Department, Pomona Police Department, San Bernardino Police Department and the Riverside FBI Office who oversees the entire program.

The ICEP was developed in conjunction with the Innocence Lost Initiative to combat the sexual exploitation of underage females by pimps and predators in an attempt to rescue them from the repeated sexual, physical and mental abuse that they are subjected to on a daily basis. These victims are recruited at schools, approached as runaways, and are lured by the promises of money, prestige, and being part of a "Family". Most of these girls are ages 12-14 when they are first exposed to this brutal and sometimes deadly lifestyle.

The goal of ICEP is not only prosecution of the "pimps" and "johns", *Cont pg 5*

## Special Operations Division

### *Neighborhood Policing Center (NPC) Investigations:*

It has been a very busy time in the NPCs with personnel changes and the challenge of managing the affects of AB 109, and keeping a lid on property crimes and other NPC issues.

Veteran Graffiti Unit Detective Cathy Nelson recently retired, leaving a vacancy in the Graffiti Unit that needed to be filled. West NPC GTA Detective Kimberly Crutchfield expressed an interest and was recently transferred to fill the vacant position. East NPC GTA Detective Marc Dehdashtian was transferred to the West NPC to fill Detective Crutchfield's position and long-time METRO Officer Pete Elliott was promoted to the rank of detective, effective April 13, 2012. Detective Elliott was assigned to fill the West NPC GTA position.

We are often asked what the NPC detectives' responsibilities are. Well, they handle everything from assaults, larceny crimes such as grand theft and burglaries, and major property crime investigations often involving theft rings that are increasingly linked to organized crime. Although they are sometimes referred to as "generalists," each NPC allows individual detectives to specialize in particular investigative disciplines such as Auto Theft or Burglary. They truly are the "triage" experts at prioritizing cases and reaching out to internal and external resources to identify and capture suspects responsible for an array of crimes in Riverside. Although we are divided into 4 NPC areas, it is obvious that criminals generally do not recognize geographical boundaries. Thus, many cases are solved by a strong commitment and communication between our NPCs, Patrol Operations, and outlying agencies. I also would be negligent if I did not recognize the outstanding effort that folks in the Crime Analysis Unit make at assisting the NPCs with identifying crime trends and providing valuable information to efficiently direct resources and reduce crime.



**Captain  
John Carpenter**

## Investigations Division Cont...

more importantly the recovery of the juvenile victims. After the victims are recovered, we are partnered with several organizations which are able to provide temporary housing and counseling to help them transition back into a normal life. The ultimate goal is to have them be reunited with their families to continue their recovery from these traumatic events in their lives.

In addition to the ICEP Task Force's enforcement activity, they also conduct presentations for juvenile centers, churches, and community groups to educate the public of the exploitation occurring in our communities. If you believe you know someone who may be a victim, or would like to schedule a presentation, please call Riverside Police Department Vice Unit, Detectives Michael Cobb (951)353-7205, James Barrette (951)353-7207, or Robert Tipre (951) 353-7204.

# SPRING... into ... Car Seat Safety



4 out of 5  
car seats are  
installed improperly

**FREE  
SERVICE**

Come get your car seats checked  
by certified technicians

**When:** Tuesday, May 1, 2012

**Time:** 10 am - 1 pm

**Where:** Sam's Club  
6363 Valley Springs Pkwy  
Riverside CA 92507



To make an appointment...call (951) 826-5674

Participants that get their car seats checked will have an opportunity to receive a discounted Sam's Club membership



Replacement seats provided by the Automobile Club of California and Inland Empire Safe Kids



## RPD In The Community



**Spring Celebration April 7, 2012**



**Riverside Public Safety Dispatchers  
Honored for Telecommunicator's Week  
April 10, 2012**

Being proactive for our community!

## Riverside Police Department

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## Riverside Police Command Staff

Left to right:  
Assistant Chief Vicino,  
Captain Wallace,  
Deputy Chief Greer,  
Administrative Services  
Manager Aquino,  
Chief Diaz,  
Captain Meredith,  
Captain Perea,  
Deputy Chief Blakely,  
and Captain Carpenter

In front of the Safe in  
His Arms Memorial in  
Spring 2012.