

Chief's Corner
12-15-05
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Amazingly, 2006 is upon us! I am astounded at how fast time is slipping by. It seems like yesterday that I was pushing a patrol car around Redlands as a rookie cop. And the day before that I was graduating from Redlands High. And ... well, I think you get the idea!

I join the members of the Redlands Police Department in wishing you a healthy and prosperous 2006. We hope all your personal and business plans come to fruition and the New Year is your best yet!

I would like to dedicate my column this month to the men and women of our armed forces. At this time of the year when family is so important to us all, please take a moment (frequently) to reflect on the sacrifices they and their families are making in the current conflict. Whether you agree or disagree with the politics of the "global war on terror," I hope you realize that the sons and daughters, husbands and wives and brothers and sisters that make up our military are simply doing their job wherever their country may send them. They, more than anyone save the soldiers that preceded them throughout our country's history, know the ramifications of war. They are simply doing what their country has asked of them. Selflessly. Heroically.

2006 promises to be an exciting year at the RPD. I will briefly outline some of the more prominent initiatives we have under way and that you will be reading more about in the coming year. As I hope you can see, we multi-task really well!

In the next month or two I will be making a presentation to the City Council regarding the status of our ongoing project to build a new police facility. Literally, every system within our current building is substandard and we ran out of room years ago.

Traffic is an issue in almost every part of Redlands. We will implement a state traffic grant in January and it will allow us to add an additional motorcycle officer. During our budget meetings this spring I will present additional traffic related needs to the Council.

Three additional police officers – dedicated to downtown – began work at the end of October. They have been working very hard and form the basis for our new *Business Liaison Unit*. I am interested in any feedback the business community may have about the unit's mission and accomplishments either via the Chamber's Public Safety Subcommittee or any other means available.

As San Bernardino works diligently to get a handle on its crime problems, I am concerned about the phenomena of "crime displacement" that may cause crime to migrate from the west to our community. We are helping the San Bernardino Police Department where we can and remain vigilant for signs of increasing crime.

We are continuing to leverage your investment in the Police Department by exploring multiple funding sources whether they be governmental or foundation grants and the innovative use of technology such as video cameras in areas we have trouble patrolling. In addition, we are about to begin our first neighborhood and department "blogs" to enhance our community engagement.

I hope to increase our recreation presence throughout Redlands in the form of expanding youth programming and supporting a growing citizens group focused on building a skateboard park (providing recreational opportunities and reducing damage caused by skateboarding on planters, stairs, etc).

Finally, we will continue our work in the area of supervising and holding accountable Redlands parolees via the work of our Police and Corrections Team (PACT), the use of global positioning system (GPS) technology (we recently made the state's first parolee arrest with GPS technology) and facilitating the successful re-integration of inmates returning to Redlands. Our work in this area has been in the news in ways I find unfortunate. This fact notwithstanding, I am deeply committed to making Redlands safer by reducing the victimization of innocent, law-abiding citizens and look forward to demonstrating the efficacy of this approach in upcoming community forums.

May peace, love and joy be with you and yours throughout 2006. Please know that the members of the RPD and I are blessed to serve the people of Redlands and will do everything in our power to continue to make our community one of the country's safest.

If you have any questions or comments about the RPD or policing in Redlands feel free to contact me at either 909-798-7661 or via e-mail at chief@redlandspolice.org.