

SCOTTS VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Scotts Valley, California

2018

ACTIVITY REPORT



Steve Walpole
Chief of Police

SCOTTS VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT - 2018

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SCOTT'S VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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CHIEF OF POLICE
STEVE WALPOLE

5/1/2019

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Scotts Valley
1 Civic Center Drive
Scotts Valley, CA 95066

RE: 2018 Scotts Valley Police Department Activity Report

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

I am pleased to present our 2018 Scotts Valley Police Department Activity Report. This document contains a comprehensive analysis of our activity last year. As always, I would like to thank the men and women of the Scotts Valley Police Department for their dedication and hard work.

In 2018, Scotts Valley continued to be the safest place to live in the county. Overall crime remained relatively consistent last year when compared to our five year average. The police department responded to 6,433 calls for service from our residents. When those calls were for emergency situations, our officers were on scene, on average, in just over two minutes after we received the initial call for help. When our officers were not responding to calls, they remained vigilant, increasing their self-initiated activity by almost 50% over the prior year to help prevent crime before it occurred.

This past year's highlight was in the area of recruitment and retention of our personnel. By taking a strategic approach to hiring officers over the past several years, we successfully increased the quality of sworn staff starting their careers with our agency. The result was that in 2018, we were not just fully staffed, but everyone we hired also successfully completed the field training program. It was the first time in more than twenty years that all sworn personnel were out on the street as solo police officers and 100% deployment ready. It was a great accomplishment which could not have occurred without the hard work from the members of the department who were responsible for the recruitment, hiring, and training of our new officers. We hope these new officers stay with the department for the long term and become the foundation of the department's future leadership.

In closing, I would like to once again thank my staff for their dedicated service as well as the supportive community that we are privileged to serve and protect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Walpole".

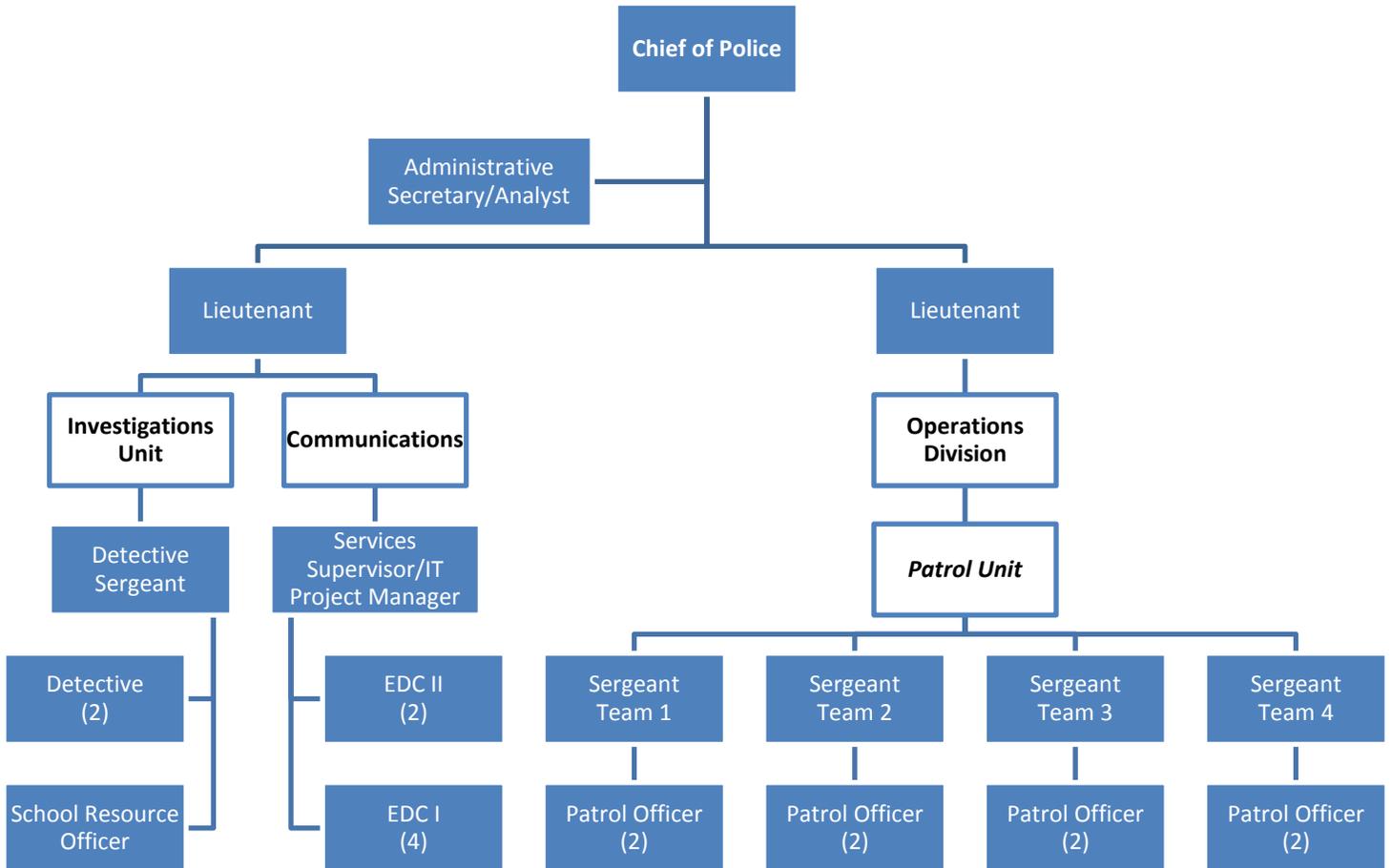
Steve Walpole
Chief of Police

SCOTTS VALLEY CRIME STATISTICS YEAR TO YEAR COMPARISON 2014 TO 2018

DESCRIPTION	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% OF CHANGE FROM 2017-2018
PART 1 CRIMES						
HOMICIDE	0	0	0	0	0	0%
RAPE	6	3	4	7	6	-14%
ROBBERY	4	5	1	4	2	-50%
ASSAULT	69	88	60	65	62	-4%
BURGLARY	49	91	85	40	42	5%
LARCENY	209	205	161	166	137	-17%
AUTO THEFT	16	10	10	20	12	-40%
ARSON	2	3	2	0	3	300%
TOTAL PART 1 CRIMES	355	405	323	302	264	-12%
ALL OTHER CRIMES	542	655	648	550	675	22%
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	6,562	6,711	6,339	6,679	6,433	-3%
TOTAL OFFICER INITIATED ACTIVITY	12,345	15,235	11,403	8,785	13,130	49%
TOTAL CITATIONS	958	1,508	1,096	1,105	1,594	44%
NUMBER OF ARRESTS	442	557	550	491	703	43%
INJURY ACCIDENT	40	34	16	30	22	-26%
NON INJURY ACCIDENT	96	123	109	144	133	-7%
HIT & RUN	43	36	24	41	31	-24%
TOTAL ACCIDENTS	179	157*	125*	174*	155*	-11*
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	35	33	24	23	37	60%
VANDALISM/GRAFFITI	112	138	103	78	56	-28%
DRUG VIOLATIONS	70	134	123	123	162	31%

* Does not include Hit & Run collisions

SCOTTS VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT



POLICE ADMINISTRATION

The Scotts Valley Police Department Administration is responsible for the overall leadership, vision and management of the police department. Police Administration manages the Department's 4.5 million budget, as well as grant funds, equipment acquisitions and overall training needs.

Police Administration directs the hiring of new personnel, ensures that professional standards are met, and monitors compliance with all state and federal regulatory requirements. Police administrators participate in numerous city/county events, boards and meetings. They also work closely with elected officials, the city manager, local schools and community groups to ensure a positive and open line of communication.



Lt. Mike Dean

Chief Steve Walpole

Lt. John Wilson

OPERATIONS DIVISION

Law enforcement worldwide faces a complex and changing landscape. It demands strong, ethical, and courageous leadership. Police leaders are called upon to provide management and leadership, build trust in our community and within our agency. Those in a supervisory role must model ethical behavior on and off duty, mentor and develop our upcoming leaders, and guide internal change, all while handling countless other responsibilities.

Lieutenant Mike Dean is in charge of the day to day operations of the police department. This position requires the management of four sergeants and eight patrol officers. Our patrol staff work twelve hour shifts, either a Sunday through Tuesday shift or a Thursday through Saturday shift with Wednesday being the alternate work day. These shifts are normally covered by one patrol sergeant and two patrol officers with our daily minimum staffing for any particular shift being two officers.

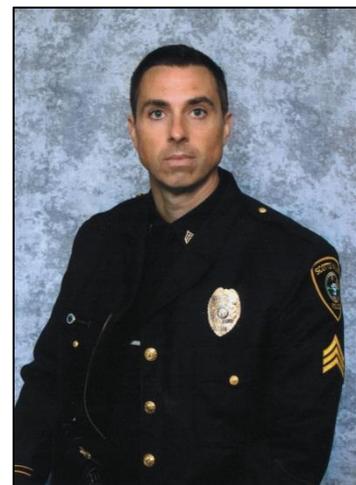
The Operations Division includes the Traffic Unit, Training Unit, K9 Unit, and the Reserve Unit. The Traffic Unit is comprised of officers who operate marked police vehicles and handle the bulk of the day-to-day calls for service. In any given moment, officers perform an array of duties from responding to emergency calls for service involving vehicle accidents to talking to our youth about drugs and alcohol prevention.

In addition to officers' normal patrol duties, they are also required to attend regular training courses and make court appearances. These men and women also volunteer their own time in the community with Police Officer Association fundraisers. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of individuals working for the Scotts Valley Police Department.

Patrol Supervisors:

Sergeant Jayson Rutherford

Sergeant Jayson Rutherford has served with the department since 1998. Besides managing a patrol shift, he is also an essential part of the training unit. He teaches the following classes to our officers: Firearms, Arrest Control Tactics, Taser, Tactical Communications, Baton and Active Shooter. Sergeant Rutherford is in charge of all in-service training and is responsible for the department's Property and Evidence Unit.



Sergeant David Ball

Sergeant David Ball has served with the department since 1998. Besides managing a patrol shift, he also oversees the department's Traffic Unit. He is in charge of our vehicle abatement program, roadway traffic counts, speed surveys and the placement of our speed awareness units. He maintains a fleet of BMW motorcycles, two Zero electric motorcycles and one all-terrain vehicle. Sergeant Ball is also one of our department firearms instructors.



Sergeant Justin Milroy

Sergeant Justin Milroy has served with the department since 2002. Besides managing a patrol shift, he supervises our Field Training Program for new officers. He coordinates with our department's field training officers to ensure that newly hired officers receive the best training possible. In addition, Sergeant Milroy is responsible for keeping our field training program updated and is our department's driving instructor.



Sergeant Brandon Polito

Sergeant Brandon Polito has served with the department since 2009. Besides managing a patrol shift, Sergeant Polito is the handler of police K9 "Atlas." They train a minimum of 4 hours each week in patrol tactics and narcotic detection. Sergeant Polito is one of our department firearms / rifle instructors, and teaches arrest control tactics. Sergeant Polito also oversees our all-volunteer Reserve Officer Program.



TRAINING UNIT

The training unit is supervised by Lieutenant Mike Dean who oversees the Department's in-house training for all full-time officers, reserve officers and police dispatchers. He is responsible for making sure the department's training conforms to State and Federal guidelines. The State of California mandates that officers receive training in the following categories every two years: firearms, arrest control techniques, vehicle operations/pursuit driving, tactical communications, and CPR/First Aid. Our department exceeds the State's minimum standards by training several times each year in each category, a standard that we set for ourselves and believe our citizens and community demand.



In addition to state mandated training, officers are also required to conduct monthly in-house roll-call training. In-house training topics include: sexual harassment, dispatch center operation, spike strip deployment, vehicle operation/pursuit policy review, blood borne pathogens, hazardous materials, domestic violence investigation, critical incident management, and disaster preparation. Officers are also tested monthly on department policies and procedures.

Officers are also sent off-site to receive more specialized training. These courses are taught by approved content experts in topics such as sexual assault, robbery, burglary, accident, evidence collection, interviewing, impaired driving, leadership, emerging trends, and many other contemporary subjects. Modern municipal police work requires unique individuals who can blend law enforcement with social work.

Our officers must be able to deal with an array of people in a wide variety of different situations. One moment officers may have to show empathy to someone who is a victim of a crime, and the next moment an officer might be dealing with a suicidal subject or someone who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Officers are often thrust into the complex web of societal issues surrounding race, class and poverty. For these reasons and more, training is a vital part of this department's professional development.

FIELD TRAINING PROGRAM

Sergeant Justin Milroy supervises the Field Training Program. The Field Training Program is the functional launching point of every police officer's career. It serves the critically important purpose of guiding and shaping the police academy recruit into a competent, knowledgeable, safe and effective solo patrol officer.

The Field Training Officer (FTO) serves many roles, including that of teacher, role model and quintessential leader. The FTO must not only be extremely well versed in all of the department's policies, procedures, mission and values, but also be able to quickly understand each recruit's individual learning styles and be able to find the most effective way of imparting this knowledge to each recruit. The importance of the FTO extends far beyond the mere sharing of information. The FTO helps the trainee understand the "why" behind the "how." The FTO assists the trainee in understanding department policy and procedure, while providing a strong emphasis on utilizing sound judgment in their decision making. The FTO fully grasps the importance of helping the trainee develop their own style and approach, all within the expectations and vision set forth by the Chief of Police, and in accordance to the highest of standards. FTO's inspire, encourage, and lead by example. They are selected for their core competence, character, courage, and commitment to the task at hand.



Officer Paul Lopez



Officer Austin Beymer



Officer Michael Birley

The Field Training Program is an intensive, comprehensive, structured 20 week program which is broken down into four distinct phases. Trainees experience daily evaluations and weekly exams on a variety of topics including but not limited to: penal codes, vehicle codes, municipal codes, health and safety codes, case law, mental health issues, domestic violence issues, traffic collisions, public safety issues and much more. As they near the end of their training program, trainees are then evaluated as solo patrol officers.

If they meet expectations, they will participate in an end-of-training oral board examination. If successful in this endeavor, they will officially graduate from the training program and assume an assigned patrol shift as a solo beat officer.

In 2018, Officer Aaron Roberts, Officer Meredith Roberts, and Officer Patrick Ahrens all successfully completed their FTO programs and passed their end of FTO oral board. They all assumed a solo patrol officer shift and helped the department edge a little closer to being fully staffed.

New Hires in 2018

In 2018, the Scotts Valley Police Department continued to recruit locally resulting in two more police officers being hired. Officer Pascale Wowak and Officer Mike Neronde were hired and began their training programs in April and May, respectively. They successfully completed their FTO programs, passed their end of FTO oral board and are now working as solo patrol officers, bringing the department to full staffing for the first time in many years.



TRAFFIC UNIT

The Scotts Valley Police Department's traffic unit is part of the Operations Division. The Traffic Division is a professional and effective team of individuals dedicated to traffic safety, with the ability to provide timely response to crime and traffic problems in order to assist all members of the community.

The Traffic Unit consists of two motorcycle officers and a traffic sergeant. Motorcycles are often used for traffic enforcement because they allow officers easier accessibility to traffic related problems. The traffic enforcement officers are primarily responsible for enforcing California Vehicle Code statutes, enforcement of local traffic ordinances, and investigation of vehicle collisions.

Our mission is to reduce vehicular accidents and injuries, and to facilitate the safe and expeditious flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic by encouraging the public's voluntary compliance with traffic regulations. We accomplished these goals through public education, traffic engineering studies, and enforcement.

Our officers stopped a total of 4,155 vehicles in 2018 which resulted in 1,594 traffic citations. Unfortunately during this same time period, officers had to respond to 186 traffic collisions within the city limits.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

- In April, the Scotts Valley Police Department participated in the national Distracted Driving campaign. Distracted driving is anything that takes your eyes or mind off the road or your hands off the steering wheel – especially texting and cell phone use, whether hands-free or handheld.
- In May, the Scotts Valley Police Department participated in the "Click It or Ticket" campaign. This is a nationwide crackdown to keep our roads safe by stepping up the enforcement of seatbelt and child passenger restraint violations. The Click It or Ticket campaign debuted in California in 2005, and since then the state's seatbelt use rate has increased from 92.5 percent to a record high of 97.4 percent in 2014, representing over 1.5 million more vehicles' occupants who have started buckling up. Scotts Valley has a compliance rate of 99 percent. Way to go Scotts Valley residents!



- In December, the Scotts Valley Police Department also participated in the nation's "Drunk and Drugged Driving" campaign, as well as the local "Avoid the Nine" DUI enforcement campaign. Officers from the Scotts Valley Police Department had a collective 70 arrests for DUI related offenses. Ten of these arrests were the result of a traffic collision.

BADGES PROGRAM



For the last 18 years, members of our traffic unit have participated in the countywide joint traffic enforcement program, "BADGES" (Before Aggressive Driving Gets Everyone Stopped). Once a month, traffic officers from each Santa Cruz County Agency get together to target violations in selected areas around our county. This saturated traffic enforcement's main purpose is to combat road rage by targeting aggressive driving violations such as speeding, stop sign violations, red light violations, tailgating, and unsafe lane changes.

ABANDONED VEHICLE ABATEMENT PROGRAM

In 2018, citizens called in 35 abandoned vehicles within the city limits. Most of these vehicles were removed voluntarily after receiving a courtesy notice. The ones with no response were towed. Police agencies are finding it more difficult to find tow companies or auto dismantlers that will take recreational vehicles. The cost involved in the vehicle's dismantling (garbage waste, sewage disposal, engine oils, propane, Freon) is far greater than the metal scrap. Because of this, tow companies are refusing to take these vehicles or are charging cities several thousands of dollars to dispose of them. Some of these associated costs are recuperated through the state Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Cost Recovery Program which our department participates in.



RESERVE OFFICER UNIT

The Scotts Valley Police Department is very fortunate to be one of the few agencies remaining in the State that has a well-staffed and well-trained reserve police officer program. Our reserve program is comprised of Scotts Valley citizens who donate their time to our community in a unique way by providing safety and service as needed.



Reserve police officers volunteer their own time to meet State mandates for reserve police officer status. Beyond their initial academy training, reserve officers also complete an in-house department field training program, and are required to complete all of the in-service training that a full-time officer receives. That training includes quarterly firearms qualifications, arrest and control tactics, legal updates, first aid, and more. Reserve officers must log a minimum of 16 hours each month to stay within State guidelines.

Our reserve officers volunteered approximately 993 hours in 2018, which equates to a \$40,000 cost savings to the city and police department. In addition to training and working patrol, reserve officers also assisted officers with traffic collisions, storms, special events, school events, prisoner transports, and staffed many of our community events.



Touch-A-Truck



Cops 'N Rodders

CANINE (K9) PROGRAM



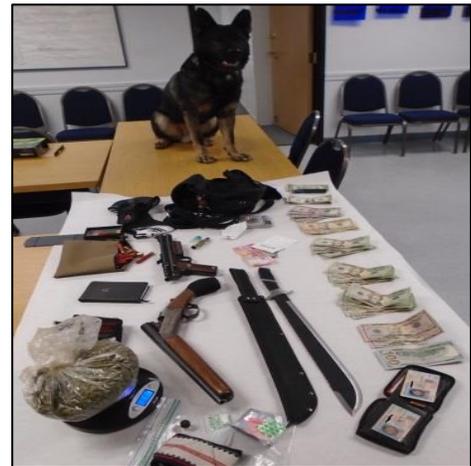
The department's Canine (K9) Program consists of Sergeant Brandon Polito and his K9 partner, Atlas. Atlas joined our department in 2014 after a rigorous training and certification process. Atlas is certified in patrol work, tracking and narcotic detection. The K9 team has proven to be a vital part of our efforts to ensure public safety in the City of Scotts Valley.

In 2018, the K9 Unit conducted 57 vehicle sniffs resulting in 48 arrests and the seizure of multiple firearms, both handgun and rifle. Atlas sniffed out approximately 210 grams of methamphetamine, 15 grams of heroin, 4 grams of cocaine, and 15 pounds of marijuana. In addition to these controlled substances, additional harmful and illegally possessed drugs were located including oxycodone, morphine and Xanax.

The K9 unit had four suspect surrenders where Atlas could have been deployed to apprehend a suspect, however, the suspect elected to comply with instructions after a K9 warning was given.

Our K9 team was requested eleven times in 2018 to assist outside agencies with tracking fleeing suspects or searching buildings after burglaries. Overall, the K9 unit was involved in 56 total arrests.

The K9 team is required to train a minimum of four hours each week. These trainings are conducted at various locations around the county. This training ensures that both officer and K9 are at their best to handle any given situation should the need arise.



Besides being used for patrol work, Sergeant Polito demonstrated Atlas' skills in several public relation events throughout the year. Some of these events included Cops 'N Rodders, Junior Police Academy, UCSC Police Department Community Academy, Scotts Valley Art, Wine and Beer Festival, Earthwise Pets fundraiser, and a K9 demonstration for military veterans.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The services division is comprised of two units: Investigations and Communications/Records. This division is managed by Lieutenant John Wilson. Detective Sergeant Wayne Bellville heads the Investigation Unit while Services Supervisor Tamera Melrose heads the Communications/Record Unit.

Scotts Valley has the distinction of being only one of three dispatch centers (Public Safety Answering Point) in the county, and receives and dispatches 911 calls for the City of Scotts Valley. By providing this service, the Scotts Valley Police Department has retained the personal connection with the community that allows for a higher degree of professional service and employee satisfaction.



Scotts Valley Police Department's Investigation Unit is comprised of two detectives, one school resource officer, and a detective sergeant. Though detectives work weekdays, there is always one detective designated on-call and available to respond to major incidents at a moment's notice. Our specially trained and experienced detectives follow up on investigations, proactively conduct operations such as tobacco, alcohol and massage parlor stings, and conduct many of our highly praised public relations and educational programs.



INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Investigations Unit has three areas of focus: Criminal Investigations, Community Outreach, and Personnel Recruitment for the department.



The unit is staffed by Sergeant Wayne Bellville, Detective Michael Birley, Detective Elliott Terrell and School Resource Officer Paul Lopez. The members of the Investigations Unit receive specialized training in a variety of fields such as sexual assaults, child abuse, elder abuse, homicide, robbery and financial crimes. They are tasked with handling in-depth investigations and

follow-up to cases referred to them by patrol staff.

The Investigations Unit is responsible for many of the department's community outreach programs such as Coffee-With-A-Cop, the Junior Police Academy (JPA) summer youth program, Safety Fairs, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) to local 5th grade schoolchildren, and fundraisers to support the department's juvenile fund.

The Investigations Unit is also responsible for recruitment, initial hiring processes, and background investigations for new officers, dispatchers, volunteers, and student helpers. In addition, the department's detectives regularly attend county-wide intelligence sharing and training meetings throughout the year.



For the first time in over ten years, the Scotts Valley Police Department was able to assign an officer to the Santa Cruz County Anti-Crime Team (SCCACT). Officer Paul Meier was temporarily assigned to SCCACT at the end of 2018. Officers assigned to SCCACT gain invaluable investigative experience that will benefit our agency and community. The department plans to rotate qualified officers into the task force for three or four month assignments as long as current department staffing levels can be maintained.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.)



Retired Lt. John Hohmann stepped in to teach the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program in 2018 due to staffing shortages. D.A.R.E. is taught to all 5th grade students at Vine Hill Elementary, Brook Knoll Elementary and Baymonte Christian School. The D.A.R.E. program consists of an evidence-based curriculum that teaches students good decision-making skills, helping those students lead safe and healthy lives. The D.A.R.E. vision is defined as a "...world in which students everywhere are empowered to respect others and choose to lead lives free from violence, substance abuse, and other dangerous behaviors."

D.A.R.E. has been supported in large part from fundraisers such as the department's annual D.A.R.E. Golf Tournament for the past 21 years. Proceeds from the department hosted golf tournament offset costs for D.A.R.E. t-shirts, challenge coins and related educational supplies. The D.A.R.E. Golf Tournament was held for the final year at Valley Gardens Golf Course in August and raised record totals of over \$11,000. We've been truly fortunate to have had so many local businesses donate to this event, as well as numerous participants who enjoyed a day of golf, BBQ lunch, and raffle prizes.



Junior Police Academy (JPA)

Middle school aged students are invited each summer to participate in the Junior Police Academy (JPA) which is headed by Detective Michael Birley and the Investigations team. Three JPA sessions are spread across the summer and are each one week long. The program fills up every year and 2018 was no exception.



The students who participated had the opportunity to experience a physical agility course and learn all about crime scene investigation, high risk vehicle stops, SWAT, team work and more. On the final day of each session, participants performed community service by picking up trash and abating graffiti along a one mile span of the San Lorenzo River.

Red Ribbon Week



Week is a national campaign effort for drug prevention held annually at the end of October. The department encourages community participation to support this effort. Each year, the Investigations Unit hosts a kick-off barbeque at the start of Red Ribbon Week where community leaders, public safety personnel and educators come together to show support of the campaign. Several businesses, including Togo's Sandwiches and Rita's of Scotts Valley joined the department in recognizing Red Ribbon Week by agreeing to provide discounts to anyone wearing a red ribbon or wristband during the campaign.

Special Olympics

The Scotts Valley Police Department has long supported the Special Olympics of Northern California. Detective Michael Birley, along with Ret. Lt. John Hohmann both coordinate public relations events that raise funds for Special Olympics. These events include the popular Police in Pursuit car races at Ocean Speedway, the Polar Plunge, Law Enforcement Torch Run, Tip-A-Cop and related Special Olympics events. In May 2018, Ret. Lt. Hohmann was presented with an award from Ocean Speedway recognizing the numerous hours he volunteers in support of Special Olympics.



In July 2018, the "Flame of Hope" (the official torch of the Special Olympics Northern California Summer Games) was carried with a large contingent of runners through Scotts Valley. Special Olympic events are supported by our agency because we believe in the importance of celebrating the heart and spirit of Special Olympic athletes and their families.



COMMUNICATIONS/RECORDS UNIT



The Scotts Valley Police Department is proud to directly serve the community of Scotts Valley with its own emergency communications center which is open 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. It has been a long standing tradition in Scotts Valley to retain its own communications center with the city. We believe this directly benefits the community because dispatchers are familiar with the city, its businesses and community members. At any time of the day or night, citizens can come to our police department and find a dispatcher on duty ready to assist them.

Dispatchers take calls for service and dispatch officers, along with other emergency personnel, as needed. They are often the first point of contact for people in need of help. A dispatcher must be able to remain calm and quickly determine the nature of a call so they can send the appropriate emergency services to those in need.

In 2018, our 911 dispatch center handled 4,386 emergency calls and 18,548 business line calls, which resulted in 6,433 calls for service. Our average response time to emergency calls has consistently been under 3 minutes.





In addition to taking 911 calls and business calls, our dispatchers assist visitors in the front lobby, conduct numerous records checks, handle public records requests, generate statistical reports, maintain official documents, and prepare annual government reporting requirements and audits.

Services Supervisor Tamera Melrose supervises the entire communications/records unit. She oversees our city computer network and phone systems, interacts with IT contractors, and manages technical/communications projects, records requests, homeland security grants, and more.



Serv. Sup. Tamera Melrose



Our department has two EDC II's who manage additional assignments such as working on technical projects and providing system support. The EDC II's also update and maintain our department website, social media accounts and oversee property and evidence. They also assist officers and detectives with crime scene investigations, perform annual offender registrations and court liaison duties.

EDC II Amanda Robbins

In 2018, the Scotts Valley Police Department hired two new dispatchers, Chloe Gordon and Hannah Carney, to replace dispatchers who resigned or retired.



Chief Walpole with EDC-I Chloe Gordon and Council Members Jack Dilles and Donna Lind after being sworn in.



EDC-I Hannah Carney being sworn in.

VOLUNTEER UNIT



Lois Blair and Gillian McGlaze
D.A.R.E. Golf Tournament. This year we were fortunate to gain two new volunteers, Gillian McGlaze and John Crites.

The Scotts Valley Police Department thrives every year from support and assistance offered by our wonderful group of civilian volunteers. Our volunteers take on various tasks around the department such as clerical work, bi-weekly deliveries to the court house, setting up speed awareness trailers, vehicle and building maintenance, and providing assistance at various community events throughout the year such as the



Chaplain Fred Wilson

The volunteer program also includes our police chaplain, Fred Wilson. Chaplain Wilson's professional support is necessary not only to members of the department but to the community as well by assisting officers in providing death notifications, offering grief counseling, and being there for victim support and disaster assistance.



Konrad Baumert, Lois Blair, Harvey Bustichi



John Crites

In addition to our regular staff of volunteers, we also have various members of the community that help out at our annual Junior Police Academy (pictured below).



Police Explorer Program



The Scotts Valley Police Explorer Program Post 831 is supervised by Officer Paul Meier and Detective Elliott Terrell. The program provides an opportunity for youth ages 14-20 to experience law enforcement's service to the community. Police Explorers learn many aspects of law enforcement, such as police radio communications, traffic control, and community relations. During their training days, they are given the opportunity to learn defensive tactics, arrest procedures, and other "high risk" incidents in a controlled environment. Police Explorers have

an opportunity to ride with officers in the field, under strict supervision, and learn even more about the day to day operations of a police officer.



The Police Explorers were very active in 2018 and assisted in many community events. They had a large role in helping with traffic control and park security for the City's annual Fourth of July celebration. Explorers assisted the Chamber of Commerce by providing overnight security of vendor booths at the Scotts Valley Art, Wine and Beer Festival. Numerous hours were also invested in many other public relations events such as Cops 'N Rodders, the Junior Police Academy and the Touch-A-Truck fundraiser. They also participated in several events outside of Scotts Valley, including the Gilroy Garlic Festival and the Capitola Art & Wine Festival.

Police Explorer Post 831 hosted the regional Exploring Banquet, which brings together Explorers from Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey and Santa Clara Counties. In 2018, the Scotts Valley Police Explorers Post 831 received the Journey to Excellence Gold Award for the training and professionalism they have demonstrated.

We all appreciate the dedicated volunteer service these young people provide to our agency.



POLICE OFFICER ASSOCIATION

The Scotts Valley Police Officer Association (SVPOA) is committed to engaging with our community and helping to raise funds for local charities and youth programs. In 2018, the Association raised over \$10,000 for charitable organizations and sponsored over \$2,300 to youth organizations through its Cops 'N Rodders Charitable Fund.

In April 2018, the Association participated in helping raise money to benefit the Smith Family of Boulder Creek. Jaxson Smith was a 3 year old boy who had developed a life threatening cancer around his spinal cord. The Association was able to raise over \$7,000 through a GoFundMe page and through a 50/50 raffle to help the Smith Family with any living expenses while they focused on Jaxson's treatments.



Also in April, the Association sponsored a relay team made up of officers and family members who ran in the Never Forget 10k relay. All proceeds for this event went towards the Fallen Officer Foundation of Santa Cruz County.

In May 2018, the Association sponsored a SVPOA basketball team which played in the Watsonville Police Athletic League (PAL) Basketball Tournament. The \$250 sponsorship went to Watsonville's PAL supporting youth sports.



In November and December 2018, the Association held their 2nd Annual Toy Drive for Valley United Churches in Ben Lomond. With the help of Kmart of Scotts Valley, the Association was able to raise over \$700 in donations and over 311 toys valued at over \$4,000 for families struggling financially.



DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Scotts Valley Police Department handled 6,433 calls for service in 2018. Calls for service cover a wide range from in-progress crimes, domestic disputes, and narcotics violations to traffic accidents, DUIs, and major criminal investigations. In addition to our calls for service involving criminal activity, we also responded to alarm calls, skate park complaints, suspicious circumstances, and other quality of life issues. Some of the more notable incidents are summarized below:

WINTER



During the winter months, our department saw an influx in residential burglaries where high-end bicycles were being stolen. On one such occasion, officers were called to a residence when the homeowner saw two suspects on his security video attempting to steal bicycles from a shed on his property. The suspects fled prior to officers arriving; however, the surveillance video captured some footage that was later used to identify one of the suspects. With assistance from Santa Cruz Park Rangers, the suspect who was homeless and living in Santa Cruz parks, was located in Santa Cruz and taken into custody. When the suspect was booked into the county



jail, officers located evidence tying the suspect to an additional armed robbery in Santa Cruz a few weeks prior.

Officers noticed a vehicle that was displaying a fraudulent registration sticker and conducted a traffic stop. The passenger admitted to possessing narcotic paraphernalia and officers searched the vehicle. Officers located five large duffel bags containing multiple over-the-counter medications, hygiene products, baby formula, and a replica firearm. The items had been shoplifted from various area Safeway stores and totaled over \$3,000. The passenger admitted to entering the stores to steal the items and then planned on selling the items at a flea market. Both occupants of the vehicle were arrested and booked.



SPRING

Undoubtedly one of the most unpredictable and dangerous calls for service officers handle are domestic violence related. Case in point, officers responded to a residence for a domestic violence call and just as they arrived on scene, they heard gunshots from inside the home. Officers believed the shots were directed at them so they retreated and set up a perimeter around the residence with the assistance of the California Highway Patrol and Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office. The female victim fled the residence and officers attempted to call the suspect out of the home, but they got no response. The SCSO sent their robot inside the residence and saw that the male suspect was down on the ground suffering from a gunshot wound to the head. Officers formed a multi-jurisdictional entry team and entered the residence. The suspect was still alive so he was arrested and transported to a hospital for treatment. A subsequent investigation revealed that the boyfriend broke into the girlfriend's residence and accused her of cheating on him. He then tied her up and pistol whipped her with a handgun. The male threatened to kill the female and fired a shot inside the residence. Once officers arrived on scene, the male attempted suicide by shooting himself in the head.



Officers conducted a late night enforcement stop on a vehicle with three occupants. One of the occupants was on probation with a search clause. Officers searched the vehicle and located a loaded sawed-off shotgun, over five ounces of processed marijuana, cocaine, drug sales material, and a machete. The driver was arrested and booked on multiple charges.

Patrol officers spotted a suspicious vehicle parked behind a closed business and found two subjects sleeping in the vehicle. A search of the car yielded various burglary tools such as an oxyacetylene cutting torch, bolt cutters, and vehicle entry tools. Officers also located methamphetamine, heroin, drug paraphernalia, and various documents in multiple people's names. The subsequent investigation identified over 25 victims of ID theft and mail tampering. Both subjects were arrested.



SUMMER

As noted in the traffic section of this report, our department participates in the BADGES (Before Aggressive Drivers Get Everyone Stopped) program. Traffic related calls for service range from DUIs, non-injury/injury collisions, and reckless driving reports. "Road Rage" calls for service are less common but typically more dangerous due to the elevated emotions involved. For example, officers received a report of a road rage incident that occurred on Highway 17 where a motorist pointed a rifle at another motorist. The victim reported that the suspect exited Highway 17 and was last seen on Scotts Valley Drive. Officers located the vehicle as the driver attempted to park behind a building and evade capture. Officers arrested the driver for DUI and recovered three rifles and one shotgun. The suspect was arrested and booked and the firearms were seized.



Officers located a vehicle parked in a shopping center with a female driver slumped over the steering wheel. Officers contacted the driver to check on her welfare and discovered the vehicle was reported stolen from Los Gatos. During a search of the vehicle, officers located heroin, multiple items associated with identity theft, forged checks, identification cards belonging to other victims, and miscellaneous stolen merchandise from area stores. The driver was arrested and booked on various charges and the stolen vehicle was returned to the owner.

Officers responded to a business regarding a report of a woman rummaging through employees' vehicles. When officers arrived, the suspect fled into one of the buildings and officers searched for her. Officers ultimately located her exiting a building with stolen property from the business inside her jacket. The suspect was arrested but prior to being booked, officers located the vehicle she drove to the business parked in the rear lot. The vehicle was reported stolen from Northern California. The suspect was arrested on the additional felony charge and booked at jail. The vehicle was returned to the owner.



FALL

After officers conducted an enforcement stop on a vehicle, they contacted the driver noting marijuana inside the vehicle not being lawfully transported. Officers searched the vehicle and located approximately 130 grams of crystal methamphetamine, approximately 105 grams of processed marijuana, as well as narcotic sales materials. The driver was arrested and she requested we call her husband to retrieve items from the vehicle prior to it being towed. When her husband arrived, officers discovered he was on searchable probation. Officers searched him and located an additional 30 grams of methamphetamine, approximately \$1,000 in cash, and narcotic packaging materials. Both wife and husband were arrested and booked into jail.



A concerned neighbor contacted our department to report that a five year old child, who lived next door to her, told her that his father had a firearm and that the child had access to it. Officers were familiar with the father from multiple prior law enforcement contacts. Officers also discovered that the father was on probation and on house arrest with an ankle monitor. Officers went to the residence and searched the father's room. They found a large caliber handgun hidden in the child's clothes drawer. Officers also located methamphetamine on the father when he was searched. The father was arrested and booked into jail on multiple charges and his probation was revoked.

Patrol officers conducted a traffic stop late at night on a vehicle for failing to maintain its lane and striking a curb. Upon contact with the occupants of the vehicle, two of them were found to be on probation for various narcotics offenses. A search of the vehicle yielded a large quantity of methamphetamine, a digital scale, and packaging material. The driver was found to be in possession of heroin and counterfeit \$100 bills. Additionally, items consistent with burglary tools were located such as slim jims and bolt cutters. The two subjects were booked into jail for possession of methamphetamine for sale, possession of heroin, possession of counterfeit currency, and possession of burglary tools.



STAFF RECOGNITION

The outstanding investigations, arrests, dispatching and community involvement of our staff does not go unnoticed. Here are the Employees of the Month for 2018. We are fortunate to have such dedicated police professionals!

JANUARY

Sgt. Jason Rutherford

Sergeant Rutherford was recognized for going above and beyond as the department's firearms trainer. In January, Sergeant Rutherford was made aware that members of other local agencies were having a hard time getting their officers qualified under the new state-wide patrol rifle training mandates. He put together a Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified class and invited other agencies to participate in the training. They all agreed the training was top notch and it provided a great opportunity to network with other agencies.



FEBRUARY

EDCI Alycia Schertz

This past year EDCI Schertz became a Communications Training Officer and she met this new challenge head on by working diligently to improve her knowledge of dispatch operations, reviewing training materials, and asking for clarifications to ensure she was able to do a thorough job. EDCI Schertz trained four of our newest dispatchers in less than two years.



MARCH

SRO Paul Lopez

SRO Lopez is our primary Field Training Officer and spent the entire month training two of our newest officers. Being a full time FTO is hard work in itself, but he also had a number of noteworthy calls for service which made him stand out during the month of March. The highlights included a late shift arrest for a DUI, initiating CPR on a victim of a fall, and safely arresting a physically combative suspect.



APRIL

Reserve John Hohmann

Officer Hohmann continued his strong efforts in supporting the Special Olympics of Northern California through several fundraising events. Officer Hohmann coordinated two “Tip-A-Cop” events at local restaurants with funds going to Special Olympics. Officer Hohmann also successfully organized the current “Police in Pursuit” season which began this month in Watsonville. In preparation for the race, he worked with many local businesses to get donations and assisted several police officers in preparing their sponsored race vehicles.



MAY

Officer Patrick Ahrens

Officer Ahrens' first solo shift was in the beginning of May and he hit the ground running. He responded to 153 calls for service, had 119 officer initiated incidents, wrote 13 reports, made 11 arrests, and wrote 21 citations. Officer Ahrens demonstrated a high level of proactivity with a great deal of self-initiated contacts which resulted in enforcement action. He maintained a positive “can do” attitude and was a pleasure to supervise.



JUNE

Detective Mike Birley

The month of June started off with Detective Birley handling a priority case involving a disgruntled former student from Scotts Valley High School. The juvenile made direct threats to school district staff, which led to concerns for a safe graduation ceremony. Detective Birley worked numerous hours on this case, obtaining an arrest warrant, and taking the juvenile into custody during the graduation. Detective Birley had to navigate many obstacles in this case, as the juvenile suspect lived in Southern California, but he was able to bring the issue to a successful resolution.



JULY

Officer Jared Johnson

Officer Johnson responded to a report of a road rage incident where the driver of a vehicle pointed a rifle at the driver of another vehicle on Highway 17. Officer Johnson located the vehicle as it passed him on Scotts Valley Drive and then attempted to elude him by driving behind a business. Officer Johnson found the vehicle, initiated a high-risk stop, and then arrested the suspect. Officer Johnson located two rifles and two shotguns laying on the backseat of the suspect's vehicle. He later interviewed the suspect who admitted to pointing a rifle case at the victim. Officer Johnson arrested the suspect on felony brandishing charges and DUI.



AUGUST

Officer Aaron Roberts

Officer Roberts' enthusiasm, drive and excellent work ethic were the highlights of August demonstrated by his writing the most reports (18), making the most arrests (16), conducting 27 traffic stops, and issuing 13 citations. Officer Roberts demonstrated a great deal of self-initiated contacts which resulted in enforcement action. He maintained a positive "can do" attitude and was always eager to learn new things.



SEPTEMBER

Lt. Mike Dean

Lieutenant Dean has always been known as someone who can get things done throughout his career. He continued that work ethic when he was promoted to lieutenant last year and consistently worked long hours every week despite the fact he no longer gets paid overtime to do it.

This past September Lieutenant Dean went above and beyond the call of duty to help others and ensure the department ran efficiently. Some of these events included: Operation Safe Passage, D.A.R.E. Golf Tournament, and the Retiree BBQ/Range Qualification, just to name a few.



OCTOBER

Sgt. Wayne Bellville

Sergeant Bellville revamped and upgraded the City Massage Ordinance Compliance Program and created a Massage Practitioner Permit. He researched model ordinances and worked closely with the California Massage Therapy Council to craft better regulations. He also conducted community outreach to massage establishments and practitioners to solicit feedback. He prepared a staff report and presented the new ordinance to City Council, who approved it. Sergeant Bellville also conducted an undercover operation, utilizing outside agencies, to check for compliance.



NOVEMBER

Sgt. Brandon Polito

Sergeant Brandon Polito was selected as employee of the month for his compassion and selfless commitment to the law enforcement community, and specifically, to the fire victims of Paradise, California. Sergeant Polito loaded his truck with the generous donations from citizens and local businesses. He drove up to Oroville where the donations were dropped off to fire victims in need and networked with the local first responders. Sergeant Polito returned home after assessing the needs and then the very next day he drove up a second time with another load of donations. Sergeant Polito was a great example of why we all got into law enforcement, not for the recognition, but in order to help people.



DECEMBER

Officer Jared Johnson

Officer Johnson demonstrated great dedication to the community and showed his willingness to go above and beyond to donate his own time to represent our department in a positive light. Some of these events of the past few months included the annual Trunk-Or-Treat, the Heroes Night Law Enforcement basketball tournament, the SVPOA Toy Drive, and he volunteered to attend the Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony.



2017 EXCHANGE CLUB OF SCOTTS VALLEY POLICE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Officer Paul Meier was selected as the Scotts Valley Police Department's 2017 Police Employee of the Year. He had this honor bestowed upon him at The Exchange Club's Blue and Gold Dinner celebration which also honors the Firefighter of the Year. Officer Meier's work ethic during the year distinguished him as a proactive police officer who is seen as a hardworking, dedicated, and respected member of this department and our local community. Officer Meier received the Employee of the Month Award twice in 2017, and was the recipient of the prestigious California Highway Patrol 10851 Award for his work in arresting six separate suspects who he caught driving stolen vehicles in our city. This was the first time any SVPD officer has received the award in the past twenty years breaking the record for the most stolen vehicle arrests in the department's 50 year history. Officer Meier also became SVPD's first ever certified K9 Decoy, served as the interim program coordinator for the Police Explorer Program, and volunteered as the department's newest Defensive Tactics Instructor.

Officer Meier's professionalism, positive attitude, dedication to our community, and many accomplishments in 2017 made him more than deserving of the Exchange Club's 2017 Police Employee of the Year.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE

Council Member / Retired Sergeant Donna Lind



This past year marked a major milestone for retired police sergeant, and current City Council Member, Donna Lind as her 50th year of continuous service to the City of Scotts Valley.

Donna started working at the City of Scotts Valley in 1968 as the City Hall Secretary. She held that position for a short time before she joined the police department as a 911 Emergency Dispatcher Clerk. In 1978, Donna became Scotts Valley Police Department's first female police officer. She would go on to serve the department until her retirement from full time duty in 2006 at the rank of sergeant. After her retirement, Donna continued to volunteer for the police department as a reserve officer for another two years.

In 2008, Donna successfully ran for city council and has served the city in that role for the past ten years. The half century of continuous commitment to the City of Scotts Valley is a record that will probably never be broken. Everyone at the police department and at City Hall thanks you, Council Member Lind, for your dedicated service to our community!