

SARATOGA SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT



“GOOD TO KNOW...”

FROM THE DESK OF:

CPL. AARON D. ROSEN, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

(POLICE BLOTTER INFORMATION- Feb. 2010)

STATISTICAL DATA:

In 2010, the Saratoga Springs Police Department has handled a total of **1030** offenses. (Year-to-date)

The Department handled: **370** reported incidents in Feb. 2010. (**319**- in 2009; **292**- in 2008); a **20%** annual increase from 2008-2009.

The Department currently has **14 Patrol/Administrative Officers**, and **2 Animal Control/Code Enforcement officers**, actively patrolling Saratoga Springs. Each officer works various shifts, providing the residents 24/7-365 coverage; with police supervision round-the-clock.

The Department currently has **3 sworn Investigators**. They are assigned in-house, and at the Westlake High School. **2** part-time “Uniformed” Investigators also assist the Investigations Division via the Patrol Division. Investigations have been working **147 active** cases, for **February 2010**. They have an approximate clearance and/or solvability rate of: **38%**. To date, Investigators have written **2** search and/or arrest warrants, and have provided nearly **30** school presentations (WLHS, and elementary schools). These presentations have included: NOVA, and RAD Kids.

DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS:

The Saratoga Springs Police Department recently participated in the Special Olympics Utah ‘Polar Plunge’. This was held at the Pelican Bay Boat Harbor on February 20, 2010. We had over 100 brave jumpers who braved the 38 degree waters, and jumped into the Utah Lake all for the benefit of the Utah Special Olympians. The nearly \$15,000 raised will help the special athletes participate regionally and even nationally. SSPD was also a recipient of a prestigious Special Olympics Utah- State award for raising the third largest amount of money raised by a police agency in the State of Utah! Way to go Sgt. Cole and SSPD team!

Recently, we have been asked to participate in the US/Utah Census. There have been several warnings and alerts about those who may wish to use the census as a way to victimize our residents. The SSPD Team asks all residents to use common sense and judgment when interacting with those who may pose as US Census workers. When in doubt, ask for ID and verification of Census personnel. If you are still not sure about who is at your door, feel free to contact us.

(POLICE BLOTTER INFORMATION- Feb. 2010/Con't.)

CASE SAMPLING:

#1- ATTACK OF THE DOG

Officers responded to the Sunrise Meadows subdivision at the request of a resident. The reporting party claims that a neighborhood dog approached their dog, and began to aggressively attack her dog, while she was walking down the street. The "suspect" dog's owner was very upset by the complaint, and became irate toward the SSPD Animal Control Officer. The man was ticketed for Disorderly Conduct and Dog Attack/Dog-At-Large.

#2- DRUGS IN THE PARK

An SSPD Officer, while on routine patrol near the RC Airplane Park, noticed several juveniles loitering, when they appeared to be school-aged juveniles. The five kids, ages 16-17, were allegedly skipping school. While at the park they were questioned. It was determined that the youth were engaged in possible drug use, while in the park. They later admitted to having been smoking Marijuana. All were cited and released to parents at the Westlake HS offices.

#3- INTERRUPTED RAPE

An alert SSPD Officer responded to the area of Utah County (Milepost 19), at the request of the on-duty Sheriff's Deputy, who was responding to a 9-1-1 call in the area. The SSPD Officer was the first to arrive in the area. During the phone call to Dispatch, it was apparent that the female caller was not able to speak freely, and was being held under duress. The SSPD Officer noticed a vehicle parked in the foothills that matched the possible description of the suspect vehicle. After the Officer arrived, he found a man and a woman inside the vehicle. It was later determined that the female was a possible victim of a sexual assault. The SSPD Officer took the male suspect into custody and transferred him to arriving Utah County Sheriff's Deputies.

#4- WHILE MOM'S AWAY...

SSPD Officers responded to the condominiums near the Harvest Hills entrance, on the report of a loud party. Upon further investigation, it was determined that ten juveniles were frequenting a classmate's residence. They were having a party that included alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. The party was unauthorized by the hosting juvenile's mother, who was out of town at the time. The kids who were imbibing in illegal behavior were arrested and released to their parents.

#5- LICENSE PLATE LANDS ONE IN JAIL

On February 8th, an SSPD officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle that had an apparent license plate that was dangling on its frame. The officer asked the driver to fix the falling plate. In the meantime, the passenger wanted to help fix the plate problem. The passenger introduced himself to the officer, and the officer checked the driver and passenger for outstanding warrants. The passenger was found to have had several drug and paraphernalia warrants, and was arrested on-scene. He was taken to jail after he repaired the falling license plate.

#6- COURTROOM DEMEANOR

Three defendants, who were being arraigned at the Saratoga Springs Justice Court, allegedly decided to show-up to their hearing under the influence of illegal narcotics. The judge ordered that they be tested on-site for drug use. Two of the suspects tried to avoid testing, and the other provided a preliminary-positive test for drug use. The judge placed all three into custody for Contempt-of-Court. All three were taken to the Utah County Jail.

#7- CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL THEFT

On February 21st, an SSPD Officer, while on patrol, handled a ‘suspicious circumstance’ in the Jacob’s Ranch subdivision. The officer met with a male, who appeared to be loading construction material from a house construction site, which was under construction. After further investigation, it was determined that the man was loading wood and other materials into his truck. He later admitted to stealing the items from the job site. He was booked into the Utah County Jail on multiple Theft charges.

#8- MARIJUANA CASE

While on a foot patrol of the Inlet Park and surrounding areas, an SSPD Officer met with several juveniles who were relaxing in the ‘hot pots’ and allegedly smoking Marijuana through an apple. The juveniles explained that the apple was partially cored. Marijuana is then placed inside the apple, and the fruit is used as a pipe (paraphernalia) in lieu of an actual pipe device. The juveniles were arrested, and released to parents.

#9- STORE CLERK ‘CHECKS-OUT’

At the request of a concerned shopper, an SSPD Officer was asked to contact a former employee of a Saratoga Springs store, on the report of ‘suspicious’ comments that were made, while a shopper was checking-out. This clerk allegedly made comments to the shopper about, “enjoying ringing-up children’s clothing”, and told the shopper that he was a “sick pervert”. After additional and unsolicited comments were made by the clerk, the shopper complained to store management. The clerk was terminated, and he was cited by officers for Disorderly Conduct.

#10- VEHICLE BURGLARIES

On February 28th, SSPD Officers responded to two LDS Church ward-house parking lots, on the report of multiple vehicles that had been burglarized. The victims found that their vehicles had been burglarized by having a window smashed, and then entered. Apparently, several purses were left within view of the suspect(s). Their purses and their contents were taken from the vehicles. *Reminder- NEVER leave anything of value within plain-view of a parked vehicle. Don’t become a victim of opportunity.

For more information or public safety tips, be sure to check out the Saratoga Springs Police Department’s Crime Prevention Newsletter. This feature is being provided as a community resource in order to better inform our residents of basic tips and tools in preventing crime, upcoming events, and other community policing resources. You can find the newsletter by connecting to: <<http://www.saratoga-springs.net/departments/publicsafety/police/>> and click the ‘Crime Prevention Newsletter’ link, which is found along the left-hand column.

Have a safe month!

-Cpl. Aaron D. Rosen, PIO SSPD