

SARATOGA SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT



“GOOD TO KNOW...”

FROM THE DESK OF:

CPL. AARON D. ROSEN, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

(POLICE BLOTTER INFORMATION- July 2010)

STATISTICAL DATA:

In 2010, the Saratoga Springs Police Department has handled a total of **4246** offenses. (Year-to-date)

The Department handled: **528** reported incidents in June 2010. (**430-** in 2009; **369-** in 2008); an overall **25%** annual increase in incidents, calculated over the past two year average.

The Department currently has **19 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. During the summer months, the SRO Investigator returns to full-time Investigator to supplement in-house workforce. **2** part-time “Uniformed” Investigators also assist the Investigations Division via the Patrol Division. Investigations have been working **112 active** cases, for **June 2010**. They had an approximate clearance and/or solvability rate of: **10%**. This month, Investigators have written 2 search and/or arrest warrants.

DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS:

The Saratoga Springs Police Department welcomed home one of its own. Sergeant Edwin Christensen has recently completed the prestigious FBI National Academy. The academy is hosted by the FBI training center in Quantico, Va. and is designed as a nationwide training academy for the Law Enforcement Executive. The Academy began mid-April, and Sgt. Christensen stayed in Virginia, in the FBI dormitories for nearly three months. Studies included: Executive Management, Counter-Terrorism & Prevention, Crime Analysis, Risk Management and Liability, Criminal Forensics, Statement Analysis and more. The FBI Academy generally has a waiting list, and those chosen to attend must wait their turn, as only one representative from each State may attend at any given time. Sgt. Christensen joined the SSPD at its inception in 2007, and came from the Sandy City Police Department. He recently completed his Master’s degree in Education, and resides with his wife and four children in Herriman, Utah. Congratulations Sgt. Christensen!

(POLICE BLOTTER INFORMATION- July 2010/Con’t.)

CASE SAMPLING FOR JULY 2010:

#1- PHARMACY FRAUD

An SSPD officer was dispatched to the pharmacy of a local grocery store. The Pharmacist contacted police because a man was suspected of passing a fraudulent prescription. The man, who was also wanted in West Valley City for a similar offense, had tried to pick-up a fake prescription that an accomplice woman had called-in a few minutes previously. The transaction was not completed. The pharmacy called the physician's office and discovered the prescriptions were phony.

#2- TRAFFIC STOP TUSSLE

On July 19, an SSPD Officer, while on routine patrol, conducted a traffic stop near the Harvest Hills Blvd. entrance at about 1:30am. When the officer approached the truck, he noticed the driver and his passengers were under the age of 19. The driver admitted to having smoked tobacco recently and being in possession of cigarettes. A search of the vehicle netted a baggie of marijuana. When the officer tried to place one of the passengers in custody, he tried to flee on foot. Another officer standing-by was head-butted by this young man. The officer sustained only minor injuries. The passenger and driver were arrested on-scene for a myriad of charges, including: drug possession, interfering with arrest, obstruction of justice, and tobacco possession.

#3- DRUG INDUCED DUI

An SSPD Officer was asked to locate a vehicle that had been swerving all over southbound Redwood Rd. The vehicle and driver were located by the officer, in the parking lot of a local retailer. The driver said he had a migraine, and took some prescription medication from a co-worker, while at his job. The narcotics affected his driving. The passenger in the vehicle was concerned for his alleged driving in-and-out of his lane, so she asked him to pull into the parking lot so they could change places. After field and forensic testing, it was determined the driver was also under the influence of marijuana and other illegally possessed contraband. He was arrested on-scene.

#4- DRAINED DOG

On July 19th, an SSPD Animal Control Officer likely saved the life of a Husky dog that had become stuck in a storm drain near the Jordan Parkway Trail. A resident who had been walking in the area heard the dog in the drain and then called police. City Public Works crews responded to open the drain, and help the officer recover the dog. The owner said he'd been missing the dog for several hours. When he was told what had happened to his dog, he was appreciative of the efforts of the rescuing team. The dog was returned to his owner in relatively good condition, although very tired and hungry.

#5- GRAFFITI

SSPD Officers responded to the Jacob's Ranch area where a park pavilion had been tagged with spray paint. Photographs were taken and the City's clean-up crews were notified. The SSPD Gang Investigator was also informed of the incident, so that further investigation of the origination of the taggers may be pursued.

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

#6- PHARMACIST FORGERIES

A local pharmacy contacted SSPD in regards to one of their staff members filling several fraudulent prescriptions, and then allegedly submitting them to the insurance companies, in an attempt to appear as if the customer had paid their co-pays and purchased the medications. The pharmacist was alleged to have filled two

orders at one time: one for the customer, one for himself. The total amount of prescriptions totaled nearly \$5,500. This case involves several felonies, and is being reviewed by the Utah County Attorney's Office for formal charges.

#7- THEFT BY CASHIER

A local Loss Prevention agent for a local retailer contacted SSPD, and requested that an officer respond to their store. Once inside, an interview was conducted with a cashier from the store. It was determined that nearly \$800 in merchandise had been stolen over a period of several months. The clerk would scan several items and then void the transaction. Following this, the clerk would either hide the property inside a personnel locker or walk out of the store with the stolen goods. The cashier was terminated and subsequently arrested on-scene and taken to the Utah County Jail for booking.

#8- CHILD CUSTODY AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

A woman came to the SSPD Offices to report that her estranged husband had refused to allow her to spend time with their son. The son had been staying with his father, however, when the custody exchange was supposed to occur, the father refused. The woman came to our offices to report illegal drug activity at the ex-husband's residence. She also alleges that he forcibly sexually assaulted her recently. The woman claims that while they were sleeping in the same bedroom, although estranged, he demanded sexual intercourse, and caused it by force. The case is being reviewed by the Investigations Division and County Attorney's Office.

#9- FISHING NETS FISHERMAN

On July 10, SSPD Officers were on routine bicycle patrol of the Jordan River Parkway. While on patrol at the Inlet Park area, officers stopped to contact two fishermen. During routine checks for their fishing licenses, it was discovered both men had outstanding arrest warrants for a myriad of charges totaling nearly \$8,000. Warrants included: Drug use and possession, Domestic Violence, and Threats. Both men were taken to the Utah County Jail and booked on the warrant service.

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 great summer, and slow down through City construction zones!

-Cpl. Aaron D. Rosen, PIO SSPD