

# SARATOGA SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT



## ***“GOOD TO KNOW...”***

FROM THE DESK OF:

CPL. AARON D. ROSEN, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

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### **(POLICE BLOTTER INFORMATION- June 2010)**

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#### **STATISTICAL DATA:**

In 2010, the Saratoga Springs Police Department has handled a total of **3974** offenses. (Year-to-date)

The Department handled: **464** reported incidents in June 2010. (**441**- in 2009; **453**- in 2008); an overall **5%** average annual increase in incidents over the past two years.

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 **131 active** cases, for **June 2010**. They had an approximate clearance and/or solvability rate of: **69%**. This month, Investigators have written **4** search and/or arrest warrants.

#### **DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS:**

The Saratoga Springs Police Department was recently awarded the policing services contract for the City of Bluffdale. Members of the SSPD Team are excited to be a part of an exciting new opportunity to serve the residents of Bluffdale. Chief Hicken and the SSPD team have begun preparations to assume the police responsibilities; replacing the Unified Police Department. The change-over will occur on July 1, 2010. The hiring process has been completed, and in-house training has occurred. The SSPD team welcomes: Officer Nathan Harris (UCSO), Officer Shane Taylor (Unified PD), Officer Merrick Pack (Farmington PD), Officer Kevin Flinton (Airport PD), and Officer Carl Hamer (Logan PD). Also two part-time records clerks: Jaime Soakai and Kelli Brownlee, were added to the SSPD family. All of these new additions will serve the City of Bluffdale, at their city offices. They will wear similar uniforms, badges, and equipment as the SSPD officers. They will also drive vehicles that will appear similar to the Saratoga Springs Police Department, however they're marked with “Bluffdale” on the side.

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### **(POLICE BLOTTER INFORMATION- June 2010/Con't.)**

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#### **CASE SAMPLING FOR JUNE 2010:**

## **#1- INTOXICATED YOUTH**

An SSPD officer, while on patrol at a local retailer, noticed two juvenile males loitering in the parking lot of this local business. Two underage boys were questioned on-scene, and it was determined that they had been drinking alcohol, smoking cigarettes, and were trespassing, because they had already been asked to leave the store's property. Due to the time of night, the two youths were also arrested for curfew violation. One of the teens was already serving probation for other crimes. Both were released to parents.

## **#2- SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM/CALL-OUT**

On June 11, members of the SSPD Special Response Team (SRT), along with the Team Commander, Negotiator, and Patrol Officers, responded to a residence in the Saratoga Springs Development on the report of a suicidal female patient who was also holed-up inside her home with her children also being held inside. As officers set-up perimeter containment, the Command Post was organized, the SRT Team assembled, and negotiations were commenced. After a short time, the female voluntarily exited her home and surrendered to SSPD officers. She was taken to an area hospital for evaluation and follow-up treatment.

## **#3- GRAFFITI CRIME**

An SSPD Officer on routine patrol conducted a roadside interview with two juvenile boys, who were working in the area painting fire hydrants for completion of court-ordered community service. After meeting with the boys, the officer responded to the bathroom facility at the Eagle Park in the Saratoga Springs Development. He noticed graffiti-type damage caused by red paint. It was similar red paint to that on the hydrants. The officer returned to question the boys about the vandalism to the restrooms, and they confessed to causing the paint damage. Both boys were arrested and taken to Slate Canyon Youth Detention Center.

## **#4- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, SSPD officers responded to a Saratoga Springs Development subdivision on the report of a 911 hang-up. When officers arrived it was discovered that the couple residing there had been physically fighting. Ultimately, the female victim was punched in the head by her husband, while she was holding their one year-old son. Later she was pushed down stairs, and had to urgently leave their home and go to a neighbor's house to call police. The suspect was later caught and taken to jail for Domestic Violence charges.

## **#5- DUI, DRUGS, AND DEBIT CARDS**

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, an SSPD officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation near the Wal-Mart store. While speaking with the driver, the officer realized he'd already arrested the same driver nearly two months ago for driving without a Utah license, and drug charges. While questioning the driver, it was determined that he'd never reinstated his driver license. After routine computer checks, it was discovered his license was actually suspended for drug use. The driver agreed to field testing and consented to a search of the vehicle that he claimed was not his. The officer found a baggie of an unknown crystallized substance. It field tested positive for Methamphetamine. The driver was arrested on-scene for drug possession, suspicion of DUI (for operating the vehicle while under the influence of drugs), and possession of a debit card belonging to someone else.

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## **#6- MIDDLE OF NOWHERE CRASH/DUI**

An alert SSPD officer likely saved a young man's life, or saved him from serious illness, because he found the driver and his severely damaged vehicle off-road near the extreme southern-end of Saratoga Springs. The officer noticed a pick-up truck that had crashed several miles earlier, off-road near the Pelican Point area of the city, at

about 4:00am in the early hours of June 20. The driver had admitted to having been drinking alcohol, and became ill while operating the vehicle. The driver said he “crashed through a sign somewhere”, and started to “black-out” and seize, because of the sudden illness. Due to the vehicle damage, the driver had to pull off the road completely. He said he wanted to “nurse it home”. He didn’t make it. Instead, the driver met with the nurse at the Utah County Jail.

#### **#7- ANOTHER COURTROOM DUI**

A defendant showed-up to court allegedly under the influence of prescription medication. The man, who was appearing on a previous DUI charge, appeared in court and couldn’t maintain his balance. His speech was slurred, and other physiological indicators caused the alert SSPD officer in the courtroom to contact the defendant. He admitted to having taken a prescription pill that would’ve caused significant impairment. The defendant also admitted to having operated the vehicle that took him to the courthouse. He was field tested, and subsequently arrested in the courtroom. The judge imposed a \$2,500 bail, and ordered him to be taken to jail immediately.

#### **#8- “URINE CUSTODY”**

While on routine patrol, and SSPD officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a traffic violation. The driver produced a license that was suspended. After further computer checks, it was determined the driver also had an outstanding arrest warrant. He was placed into custody. During a search of his person, the officer discovered vials of human urine and hand-warmers. According to the driver, they were being used to “pass” drug testing that was supposed to occur at his workplace the following day. He was tested at the SSPD offices, by a forensic nurse, and was determined to be under the influence of marijuana precursors.

#### **#9- STUDENT ASSAULT**

Officers were alerted to an assault that occurred at an area school bus stop. The incident involved two middle school students. The female student was allegedly confronted by a male student. According to witnesses, the boy had been bullying the girl for quite some time. The boy had reportedly been making verbal threats against the girl for several months, verbally and sexually harassing the student as well. At the end of the school year, on the day of the incident, the girl exited the bus and was then “jumped” by the young man. As the girl tried to distance herself from the boy, he attempted to undress the girl by pulling off her shirt. Other students and bystanders were on-hand to pull the boy off of the girl. The boy will be facing several serious charges.

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 drive safely through City construction zones!**

-Cpl. Aaron D. Rosen, PIO SSPD